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AFTER ACTION REPORT

HEADQUARTERS CC "A"

14TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

~~834-18~~

NOVEMBER THRU DECEMBER 44

JANUARY, MARCH, APRIL 1945

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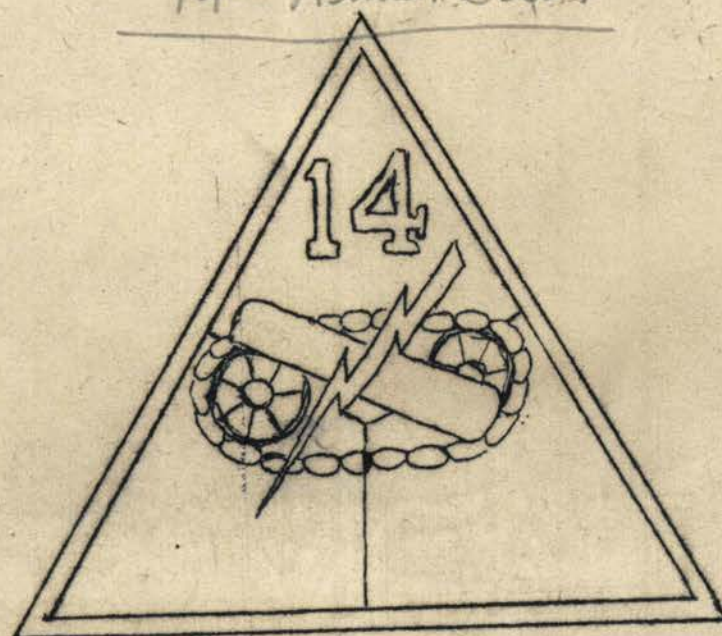


COMBAT COMMAND

CAR-114



14th Armid. Div.



HISTORY

EUROPEAN OPERATIONS

1 OCTOBER 1944

to

V-E DAY

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
U. S. ARMY

050-1721

2 July 1945

SUBJECT: Removal of Classification.

TO : All Concerned.

1. The classification of this document is removed, by VCCG, 14th Armored Division, 29 June 1945.

By Command of Brigadier General KARLSTAD:

William J Hodges
WILLIAM J HODGES,
1st Lt, Infantry,
Adjutant.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
United States Army

EUROPEAN OPERATIONS

On 1 October 1944 the 14th Armored Division began movement by train from Camp Campbell, Kentucky to Camp Shanks, New York staging area. Headquarters and Headquarters Company Combat Command "A" departed Camp Campbell on 4 October arriving Camp Shanks on 6 October. Final preparation for overseas movement was made and on 13 October the SS LEJEUNE was boarded, sailing the following day at 1515 from Pier 9, Staten Island, New York. The ship docked at Marseilles, France on 29 October 1944.

On the first of November 1944, CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of Septemes, France. The period 1 November to 6 November was spent preparing for movement to the North into the combat area. Supply shortages were corrected as much as possible along with maintenance of equipment and training of units. On the 5th of November the advance party left for the north to prepare for the arrival of the troops. On Tuesday, 7 November the first troops and track vehicles left Septemes by rail (boxcars and flatcars) with destination Chatel, France. The first wheeled vehicle column departed Septemes by road on 8 November 1944, and arrived 10 November as did the first trains of troops and tanks.

CCA closed in vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux on 14 November 1944. The period 10 November to 19 November was spent bivouacked in the vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux preparing men and equipment for combat. Tactical studies were made of the fighting ability of tanks in the area that the command was destined for fighting. Column formations were formed for the purpose of meeting the problem of tanks being confined to the roads.

At 201400 November 1944 CCA marched in two columns towards assembly area vic ST REMY and NON FATELIZE from which it was to cross the MEURTHE RIVER and attack to the east. After having been restrained by VI Corps west of the line ST REMY-LASALLE for approximately 10 hours, units occupied their assigned areas.

At 211400 Operations Memorandum No 12 Hq VI Corps was received changing the mission of CCA to a march northwest from RAMBERVILLERS thru BACCARAT-BLAMONT and CIREY to attack southeast to seize SCHIRMEC and block enemy forces withdrawing to the northeast. At 1900 the column having completely reversed and reformed, began the march ordered. The column halted on sideroads vic BLAMONT between 2300 and 0630 at which time it resumed the march.

At 220830 the first enemy contact was made by the point of the 62nd AIB leading the CCA column. After removing one road block the 62nd was halted by another defended road block located at V500995. Enemy resistance was stubborn; small arms, machine gun and mortar fire held up our advance. About 1400 the 48th Tank Bn on CCA order sent a strong reconnaissance force down the ARRESCH-WILLER-LE DONON road. By dark no report had been received on this recon and the command outposted for the night.

At approximately 1900 a message was received indicating transfer of CCA from VI Corps to XV Corps as of 1400.

On the morning of 26 November the 62nd AIB continued the attack up the BLANC-RUPT VALLEY and the 48th Tank Bn attacked up the ST QUERIN valley. Both meeting defended road blocks. At the end of the day, our most advanced elements were at V586946. On 24 November both columns succeeded in breaking thru resistance and reaching a road junction V597914 near LE DONON. The 48th Tank Bn

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having reached the road just first continued the attack down the road toward SCHIRMECK and was halted in the late afternoon by a large road crater at V582889.

By the next morning the road crater had been filled and the 48th Tank Bn continued its attack. XV Corps order of the previous evening had changed the CCA objective to a point 800 yards northwest of SCHIRMECK so as to prevent interference with VI Corps troops rapidly approaching SCHIRMECK from the southwest. This objective was reached by the 48th Tank Bn at 1430 after several heavy fire fights near GRANDFOITAIN. Contacts were then made with units of VI Corps and by Seventh Army order CCA at that time was attached for operations to VI Corps.

The Command remained on the SCHIRMECK-ST QUIRIN road until the morning 27 November at which time it marched by two columns to the valley of the RHINE and turned south thru OBERNAI with the mission of seizing and holding the line ERSTEIN-BENFELD-SELESTAT. First contact was made at a defended road block at the CR northeast of GERTWILLER. The west column, 25th Tank Bn, pushed thru this road block and moved south thru moderate resistance to GERTWILLER where it was stopped by a blown bridge. The 48th Tank Bn pushed thru, but was stopped by a blown bridge on the eastern edge of VALFF. The 62nd AIB which had been in reserve had meanwhile been sent thru BUSCHOFFSHEIM-TRAUTER-GERSCHHEIM and HINDISHEIM to attack south down the ERSTEIN-BENFELD-SELESTAT road. Shortly after dark, head of this column reached a point just northeast of BENFELD and met extremely heavy resistance. The enemy attacked with small arms, automatic weapons, mortars, antitank guns and artillery. The 62nd AIB was forced to withdraw. The 25th Tank Bn had meanwhile found a bypass around the blown bridge at GERTWILLER and attempted to cross. Heavy antitank and machine gun fire prevented the successful crossing and the 25th Tank Bn withdrew just to the north edge of town and outposted for the night. The 48th Tank Bn meanwhile had reformed its column and moved so that its head was at MEISTRATZHEIM. VI Corps order restricted our zone for the next days attack to the OBERNAI-SELESTAT Highway and routes west thereof.

On 28 November the 25th Tank Bn continued its attack on GERTWILLER meeting very heavy resistance and being unable to push thru. The 48th Tank Bn attacked thru HERLICHENSTEIN and into BARR where it met extremely heavy antitank fire which inflicted many casualties and forced the withdrawal of the Bn.

On 29 November the 62nd AIB which had reverted to reserve on the previous day moved around to the east of the 25th Tank Bn thru BOURGHEIM and ZELLWILLER to a position just north of ST PIERRE where it was halted by a blown bridge heavily defended. The 48th Tank Bn moved thru BARR to EICHOFFEN where it was halted by a blown bridge. On 30 November bridges were constructed at ST PIERRE and ANDLAU, the latter in the face of heavy fire, and both columns continued the attack to the south. At the end of the day the 62nd AIB had cleared the west edge of EBERSHEIM and the 48th Tank Bn had turned east thru SCHERWILLER and halted on CCA order approximately one mile east of that town.

D E C E M B E R

The Combat Command was proceeding in two road fighting columns south from OBERNAI with SELESTAT as the objective. The 62nd AIB (reinforced) proceeded south on the main OBERNAI-SELESTAT Highway, which the 48th Tank Bn (reinforced) followed a roughly parallel course west of the main highway proceeding south from BARR.

CCA gained the objective assigned by VI Corps--SCHERWILLER-EBERSHEIM on 1 December 1944. The 62nd AIB entered and secured the town of EBERSHEIM against heavy enemy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. The 48th Tank Bn reached SCHERWILLER, turned east and encountered a defended road block 1 mile east of town.

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CCA was attached to the 103rd Inf Div at 01100 December 1944 and relieved from attachment thereto and placed in VI Corps Reserve 012115 Dec. CCA moved north to join the 14th Armd Div in vicinity HOCHFELDEN 031700 December. The command closed vicinity HOCHFELDEN 040330 December.

On 6 December the division commander reorganized the tactical groupings, the following units being attached to CCA: 25th Tank Bn, 62nd AIB, Tr B 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz), Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn, and Co A 84th Armd Med Bn. During the period 4 December to 12 December, units directed their time to training and maintenance of vehicles, weapons and personnel.

On 7 December, CCA was given the mission of increasing vehicular and radio activity in vicinity GUEDERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, and HOERDT, during the period 8 to 10 December.

The 62nd AIB conducted a demonstration on "Assault of a Fortified Area" and the 25th Tank Bn conducted a demonstration on "Passage of An Armored Column through Towns and Villages".

Three platoons of Company C 25th Tank Bn operated in vicinity GUEDERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, HOERDT and reconnaissance was made of area GUEDERSHEIM, BRUMATH, WERTBURCH as per orders 14th Armd Div. Other units reconnoitered routes and area of possible future operations.

On 13 December CCA was given the mission of attacking on axis SURBOURG-WISSEMBOURG; seize WISSEMBOURG area and crossings over LAUTER RIVER. On 13 December CCA, following CCB, moved in one column from vicinity ZOEFERSDORF via HOCHFELDEN-HAGENAU, reaching SOULTZ with advance elements at dark. First enemy contact was made by the 62nd AIB on the outskirts of SOULTZ. Tr C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) was attached to CCA at SURBOURG and operated in zone REIMERSWILLER-HATTEN with patrols reaching HOWILLER and STUNDWILLER.

On 14 December the 62nd AIB advanced four miles seizing towns of SCHOENENBERG and INGOLSHEIM, being stopped at RIEDSELTZ by a blown bridge where the column received heavy artillery and mortar fire. The 25th Tank Bn advanced to OBERSEEBACH where it was held up by a blown bridge.

The 62nd AIB constructed a bridge at the north edge of RIEDSELTZ under enemy artillery and mortar fire. Dismounted infantry pushed forward followed by tanks through organized enemy positions, being pinned down one kilometer north of RIEDSELTZ by heavy and accurate artillery fire. The 25th Tank Bn completed construction of bridge east of OBERSEEBACH during early morning and launched attack from OBERSEEBACH advancing five kilometers before being held up by anti-tank, artillery and mortar fire. The column received a counter-attack by six enemy tanks which was repulsed knocking out two of the enemy tanks.

Troop B 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) was given the mission of occupying and holding STEINSELTZ and OBERHOFFEN. Troop C 94th patrolled the bypassed MAGINOT LINE fortifications in CCA zone.

On 16 December the 62nd AIB continued the attack to the north seizing WISSEMBOURG and crossing the German border at 1202A, advancing to the area north of RECHTENBACH where night outposts and prisoner traps were established. The 25th Tank Bn continued the attack to the north encountering a blown bridge at

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ALTENSTADT. Patrols advanced through WISSEMBOURG, crossed the German border at 1100A, proceeded to the northeast to SCHWEIGHOFEN where outposts and prisoner traps were established.

On 17 December the 25th Tank Bn continued the attack to the northeast advancing one kilometer past SCHWEIGHOFEN. A force comprised of the following: Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz), 1 Plat Company A 25th Tank Bn, 1st and 3rd Plats Company D 25th Tank Bn, two assault guns, two rifle squads, two combat engineer squads and a tank dozer, commanded by Major Shedd of the 25th Tank Bn, was given the mission of pushing on BERGZABERN and KAPPELLEN for the purpose of determining enemy dispositions and strength along the line of the ERLENBACH RIVER and ground immediately north thereof. Task Force Shedd advanced to south edge of OBEROTTERRACH where it was held up by fire from SIEGFRIED LINE.

On 17 December all units CCA moved south of safety line SCHWEIGEN- SCHWEIGHOFEN for armored vehicles; WISSEMBOURG-ALTENSTADT for unarmored vehicles, giving clearance for air bombardment missions. Both columns and Shedd Task force attacked at 1330, the 62nd AIB advancing to one kilometer north of RECHTENRACH and the 25th Tank Bn advancing to western outskirts of STEINFELD where it encountered a road block. Shedd Task Force advanced two kilometers north of SCHWEIGHOFEN where it was held up by impassable roads and heavy fire from pill-boxes. Night patrols operated to reconnoiter the SIEGFRIED LINE.

The 68th AIB, ordered by 14 AD to relieve the 62nd AIB, completed its relief by 180100A December 1944.

On 18 December, the 68th AIB attacked and reached northern outskirts of OBEROTTERRACH, encountering heavy resistance of artillery, small arms and accurate sniper fire, and was forced to withdraw into OBEROTTERRACH. The 68th AIB received a counterattack in afternoon which cut off two platoons of Company B 68th in the town of OBEROTTERRACH. The battalion established defensive position approximately 800 yards south of OBEROTTERRACH astride N-S road. The bulk of the personnel cut off in OBEROTTERRACH rejoined the battalion during the night.

CCA was given the mission of organizing a defensive line generally between RECHTENRACH and KAPFMEYER and delivering harassing fire on fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE. No attack to be made except by fire.

The 25th Tank Bn in vicinity KAPFMEYER was harassed by artillery and sniper fire. Dismounted activity was confined to patrolling, to determine the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications, establishing observation posts and clearing snipers from KAPFMEYER. An air-support mission was flown on STEINFELD with little apparent effect.

The Shedd Task force was disbanded on 19 December. The 25th Tank Bn was relieved by the 48th Tank Bn. Attack by fire against fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE was continued by both battalions.

Relief of CCA by the 315th Inf Regt of the 79th Inf Div began on 22 December and was completed on 24 December with command in zone being turned over to 315th Inf at 0900. CCA closed in assembly area vicinity of TUTZINGHAUSEN on 24 December.

The period 24 to 28 December was spent in training of reinforcements, physical conditioning, maintenance of vehicles and weapons and reconnaissance of possible routes of operations. Officers and key NCOs attended counter-sabotage instruction given by Seventh Army on 28 December.

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CCA was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached XV Corps for operations on 28 December. CCA closed in assembly area in vicinity SIEVILLER 290500 December. CCA in XV Corps reserve, was alerted to move on Corps order on three hours notice from assembly area, prepared to counter-attack in direction DRULINGEN-SARRE UNION or DRULINGEN-RAHLING; or to move to the vicinity of TIEFFENBACH to block passage thru VOSGES between TIEFFENBACH and PHALSBOURG. The period 29 to 31 December was spent reconnoitering possible routes for future operations, and organizing for execution of assigned missions. Training and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was carried on by all units.

J A N U A R Y 1 9 4 5

On 1 January 1945, CCA received a mission of establishing and maintaining a reconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE to detect infiltration of enemy armor and take means to destroy it. It also received a mission to conduct reconnaissance for movement to east of the VOSGES by routes north of and not including SAVERNE road. Observation screen along defenses of MAGNOT LINE was established and dug-in defenses prepared in the sector by the 68th AIB (reinf). The 48th Tank Battalion (reinf) moved to vicinity LORENZTEN, prepared to support defense plan of 68th AIB by counterattacking any enemy penetration. The 501st AFA Battalion prepared to support the 48th Tank Bn or the 68th AIB from firing positions vicinity RITTEN. C-125 (-) conducted reconnaissance of routes for movement to east of the VOSGES MOUNTAINS.

CCA was relieved by the French 2nd Armored Division 020900 January, 1945 and moved to assembly area vicinity BOUXWILLER. Outposts were established to prevent enemy exit or infiltration from passes or woods in zone INGWILLER-DUSSENHEIM. Outposts were organized around BOUXWILLER to prevent infiltration and to provide adequate warning of attack.

2 January to 6 January was spent outposting these exits of the VOSGES MOUNTAINS, in maintenance and preparation for future operations. The 68th AIB was relieved on 6 January of mission of outposting VOSGES exits INGWILLER-WEITERSWILLER, by elements of the 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz).

CCA moved from BOUXWILLER to SOULTZ and was attached to Task Force WAHL 79th Infantry Division, for operations on 7 January 1945. Company A 48th Tank Bn was attached to 2nd Battalion 315th Infantry for operations. C-94 established an observation screen on line RITTERSHOFFEN-HOFFEN-SCHOEIBENBERG to detect enemy penetrations and determine enemy composition and strength. Detailed reconnaissance was made of defensive position and possible approaches for tank attack.

Company 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 68th AIB on 8 January and outposted the town of SOULTZ.

In the early afternoon the 9 January the 5th Tank Battalion of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division attempted a double envelopment of the town of HATTEN with a force of fifteen Mark IV tanks on the north flank and sixteen Mark IV tanks followed by a company of mounted armored infantry on the south flank. At approximately 1420, the 1st Platoon A-48 went into position on south flank east of RITTERSHOFFEN to counter the threat of the Nazi southern envelopment. One platoon went into position on the south flank west of RITTERSHOFFEN and third platoon on the north flank, east of RITTERSHOFFEN. Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz), from its well-disposed observation posts, furnished information directly to Company A, 48th Tank Battalion and to the assault gun platoon of E-94 attached to Troop C, causing tank and assault gun fire to be directed on the south enemy tank force with the consequent destruction of seven Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun, all but one of which burned.

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At 1600 CO 48 and CO 242 Inf arranged a coordinated attack with one platoon of tanks and one platoon of infantry attacking to east on each side of HATTEN. The attack jumped off at 1710. The attack on north side of HATTEN met little opposition, reaching its objective by 1830. The attack on south side encountered some resistance, knocked out one tank, one personnel carrier and one staff car, reaching its objective by 1845.

On 10 January the 48th Tank Bn attacked in conjunction with the 315 Inf to the east with mission to restore the main line of resistance vicinity HATTEN, encountering heavy anti-tank, artillery and small-arms fire. At 1740 the MLR was restored and the 48th withdrew to assembly area vicinity SURBOURG. Company A 68th AIB reinforced the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf vicinity of LEITERSWILLER.

On 11 January the 68th AIB (reinf) moved from assembly area vicinity SOULTZ, to WUELLENDORF, preparing defensive positions in this sector in preparation for enemy armor attack. At 1545, the 68th attacked to the east and southeast on RITTERSHOFFEN encountering heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. At dark it had reached a line approximately 500 yards northwest of RITTERSHOFFEN where dug-in defenses for the night were prepared.

The 48th Tank Bn (reinf) held defensive positions vicinity RITTERSHOFFEN receiving heavy anti-tank fire during the period. At approximately 0630, Company C was attacked by a company of German tanks and 300 infantrymen supported by a heavy artillery concentration. The attack was repelled at 0730 with a loss of four (4) medium tanks. The 48th launched an attack at 1615, and made small advances but upon reaching the outskirts of RITTERSHOFFEN was pinned down by the fire of dug-in anti-tank guns, machine guns, and automatic weapons.

Troop C 94th Cav Recon Sqdn (Mecz) was given the mission of protecting the south flank of the Combat Command by patrolling the north edge of the HAGENAU Forest in the sector.

CCA launched an attack at 0800 on 12 January to clear RITTERSHOFFEN. The 68th AIB progressed slowly during the day against enemy small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and direct fire of tanks and assault guns. As darkness fell, positions were established to hold the ground gained, coordinating security with adjacent units and preparing to continue attack at daylight. The 48th Tank Bn proceeded into RITTERSHOFFEN at 0800 meeting heavy artillery fire. After withdrawing and reorganizing it re-entered the south edge of town. Company D, 48th Tank Bn attacked east, south of HATTEN, reaching the enemy main line of resistance at 1815, withdrawing at dark. During the day, CCA succeeded in clearing approximately one-half of RITTERSHOFFEN.

The 3rd Bn, 315th Inf was attached to CCA on 13 January. CCA attacked at 0800 with mission to clear RITTERSHOFFEN. The 68th made slow house-to-house progress against small arms, mortar and artillery fire and knocked out two German tanks. After laying smoke screen on southeast edge of RITTERSHOFFEN, the 48th attacked and progressed to church in east part of town, opposed by anti-tank, tank, mortar and machine gun fire. Seven (7) medium tanks, proceeded south of town, reaching a point midway between RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN cutting the road between these two towns by fire. The 3rd Bn 315 Inf attacked, making very little progress against heavy enemy resistance. A strong enemy attack, reinforced by armor and flame throwers, coming west from HATTEN was received at 2145. Attack was met by all fire available and was repulsed by 2400.

Clearing of RITTERSHOFFEN was continued on 14 January. The 68th attacked, employing tank-infantry teams supported by artillery, assault guns and mortars. In the ensuing house-to-house fighting, it met stubborn enemy resistance consisting of machine gun, artillery and intense mortar fire. A small patch of woods on east edge of town was cleared of enemy who had infiltrated during the night. The 48th was assigned defensive overwatching the security mission, protecting right (south) flank of 3rd Bn, 315th Inf and contacting CCR on right of CCA. The 48th assisted the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf by tank fire and cut the road from RITTERSHOFFEN to MATTEN by tank fire. Five medium tanks from 48 were attached to 3rd Bn, 315th Inf. Negligible progress was made by 3-315 against heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. A 155mm gun, M12, supported the attack by direct fire to assist in reducing the strong point at the church. The enemy attacked with tanks and infantry at 1400 and was repulsed by 1530, two (2) enemy tanks being destroyed.

On 15 January mines were laid in the sector, and all elements attacked by fire followed by probing patrols. Aggressive attack was resumed at 1400 with little gain. The 155mm gun was again used against the church strong point which was still held tenaciously by the enemy.

The attack to clear RITTERSHOFFEN continued on 16 January against very stubborn enemy resistance. No ground was gained during period.

On 17 January, the 315th Inf (-2nd Bn), under tactical control of CCA, with the 68th AIB attached, attacked to clear RITTERSHOFFEN, with 1st Bn 315 on left (north), 68 in center and 3rd Bn, 315th on right (south). At 0730, B-315 against intense resistance, gained small lodgement in north part of town. A-315 in conjunction with A-48 attacked at 1405 from north to clear northwest end of town and contact B-315 with whom contact had been lost. Intense enemy resistance was encountered and no contact was made with B-315. Night positions were established by all elements to hold ground gained.

All elements held ground gained on 18 January. Patrols made limited gains in vicinity of church. Four (4) enemy vehicles were knocked out northeast of RITTERSHOFFEN by artillery. The enemy was less active during this period. The 48th was on alert status to destroy any enemy attempting to withdraw from RITTERSHOFFEN.

Patrols continued operating on 19 January, reaching limited objectives before being driven back to battalion positions.

At 1500 20 January the 68th AIB was relieved from attached CCA and attached to CCB. The 62nd AIB was concurrently attached to CCA. The 14th AD and the 79th Inf Division prepared to withdraw to a defensive position vicinity HAGENAU. CCA was assigned the mission of rear guard for the withdrawal. Detachments of tanks and infantry were disposed with preponderance of weight on the right flank facing RITTERSHOFFEN and small detachments in the KUHLENDORF-HOHVILLER area and south of SOULTZ. Mission of detachments was to prevent the enemy from passing their areas until ordered to withdraw.

The 315th Inf (-) completed withdrawal from RITTERSHOFFEN area at 210400 January and moved south to vicinity HAGENAU, reverting to parent unit (79th Inf Div). The 62nd AIB reinforced the 48th Tank Bn in rear guard action. Three squads of the 62nd protected final withdrawal of tanks from SURPOURG area. The 48th

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maintained blocking positions during night 20-21 January across CCA front and withdrew to successive delaying positions protecting withdrawal of the two divisions.

CCA performed its rear guard action from SCHOENENBERG-HOFFEN-HATTEN- area without loss of personnel. The only equipment loss was one wrecked trailer, destroyed by the 62nd AIB when abandoned. CCA closed in bivouac area 211800 January.

Period 22-31 January was spent reorganizing, in maintenance of vehicles and weapons and training of reinforcements. Units performed reconnaissance of routes of possible future operations.

The following commendation was received:

HEADQUARTERS 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Assistant Division Commander

APO 79, U. S. Army
24 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 79th Infantry Division.

1. On 6 January 1945, CCA, 14th Armored Division, was attached to the 79th Division and moved to the vicinity of Surbourg as a reserve to meet a possible armored attack against our lines. Colonel C. H. Karlstad, Commanding, reported to C.P. of T. F. Wahl in Soultz for instructions. Based upon the current estimate of the situation, preparations were made to meet an anticipated attack from the direction: Wissembourg - Ingolsheim - Soultz. The 48th Tank Battalion was disposed with one company near Soultz and two in reserve near Surbourg to meet such an attack.

2. As the deployment of the 21st Panzer Division developed it became evident that the German Command had abandoned an apparent earlier intention in the Ingolsheim area for the more favorable panzer country in the Aschbach Stundwiller region. Heavy attacks were launched against the front of the 3rd Bn., 313th Inf., which was then weak in TD strength. Colonel KARLSTAD immediately redispensed the 48th Tank Battalion to meet the new threat. Company "A" from Surbourg was moved to a new location near Kuhlendorf with an overwatching position on the high ground behind the Salzbach River flowing thru Hoffen and Leiterswiller. This new disposition enabled CCA to move all three companies immediately either to the north northeast or east to meet an armored attack with minimum delay as the road net was very favorable for this purpose.

3. a. On 9 January, 1945, the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, newly arrived in the area, launched a sudden violent attack against the sector of the 1st Bn., 242nd Infantry, east of Hatten, surrounding the town of Hatten and pushing armored detachments to the west towards our undefended rear areas. With minimum delay Colonel KARLSTAD launched his command into action. Company "A", 48th Tank Battalion moved immediately to Rittershoffen to cover the assembly. The other two tank companies started in the same direction.

b. Upon arrival near Rittershoffen at about 1415, Company "A", 48th Tank Battalion occupied concealed firing positions with the 1st Platoon south

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and east of the town. One platoon was north and east, and the remaining one, south and west of Rittershoffen. Within a matter of minutes of its arrival, enemy tanks appeared on the front of the 1st Platoon. In short order five medium sized tanks (enemy) were destroyed and no further armored exploitation was attempted by the enemy.

c. As soon as infantry reserves could be assembled a counterattack was launched to relieve Hatten. This attack succeeded in reopening the Rittershoffen - Hatten road and relieving the 2nd Bn., 242nd Infantry and elements of the 1st Bn who were cut off in the town.

d. With the arrival of the 14th Armored Division, CCA reverted to its parent unit.

4. Upon withdrawal from the northern sector, CCA again came under command of the 79th Division. Its mission was to cover the withdrawal of the infantry rear guards and check precipitous armored pursuit. The arrangements to this end were made in a superior manner. However, as the enemy had apparently had enough no such pursuit developed and the withdrawal was accomplished without incident.

5. I desire, therefore, to comment to you CCA, 14th Armored Division, Colonel C. H. KARLSTAD Commanding, for a superior performance of duty. It is deserving of the words "well done" from its commander.

(s) G. D. Wahl

G. D. WAHL,
Brig. Gen. U S Army
Asst Div Comdr

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION, A.P.O. 79, U.S. Army, 24 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 14th Armored Division.

1. I concur in the above commendation and in addition, have awarded the Bronze Star Medal to Colonel KARLSTAD.

2. I desire to take this occasion to thank you for the part your division played in the recent operations around Rittershoffen and Hatten.

(s) I. T. Wyche

I. T. WYCHE
Major General U S Army
Commanding

2nd Ind.

AG 200.6

(24 Jan 45 - Commendation)

HEADQUARTERS 14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446, U. S. Army, 5 February 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Combat Command "A", 14th Armored Division.

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R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

1. I take great pleasure in transmitting this commendation to you and to the units of the Division operating under Combat Command "A" at the time.

2. In addition, I desire to add my commendation to Combat Command "A" for its operations in Rittershoffen while under my command from 12 January to 20 January.

(s) A. C. Smith

A. C. SMITH
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D
F E B R U A R Y 1 9 4 5

On 1 February 1945 CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of WILWISHEIM, France. During the entire month the Combat Command remained in this vicinity occupying the towns of WILWISHEIM, LUPSTEIN, LUTTENHEIM, SAESSOLHEIM, DUNIZENHEIM, ALTENHEIM, and FURCHLAUSEN.

CCA was in VI Corps Reserve. Counter attack plans were prepared covering the Corps sector. Reconnaissance of areas covered by these plans was made by all elements of the command in preparation for possible future operations.

Units of the command spent the time on extensive training in patrolling, tank-infantry operations, and attack and defensive problems.

Maintenance of vehicles and weapons and special training for reinforcements was carried on in conjunction with other training and preparation for counter-attack missions.

M A R C H 1 9 4 5

On 3 March Hq CCA relieved Hq CCB in the 14th Armored Division defensive sector vicinity PFAFFENHOFFEN, FRANCE. Units then holding and outposting MLR under command CCB were attached to CCA and continued active patrolling in zone.

A propaganda program was employed through use of public address system and firing propaganda leaflets with artillery pieces. Active patrolling was conducted in zone and harassing fires were fired on reported enemy positions in defensive sector.

CCA was relieved of responsibility in defense of MLR upon passage of elements of the 36th Inf Div at approximately 0600 on 15 March 1945. The command reorganized and regrouped prepared to deploy and attack upon break-through by the 36th Inf Div. Three columns were formed as follows: (1) 68th AIB consisting of Hq & Hq Co 68th AIB, Company B 25th Tank Bn, Company B 68th AIB, 1st Platoon Trp C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) and 1st plat Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn; (2) 25th Tank Bn consisting of Hq & Hq Co 25th Tank Bn, Company C 25th Tank Bn, Company A 68th AIB, 3rd Platoon Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz), and 2nd Plat Company C 125th Armored Engr Bn; (3) Task Force Blue consisting of Company C 68th AIB, Company A 25th Tank Bn, 2nd Plat Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz), and 3rd Plat Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn. CCA reserve consisted of Company D 25th Tank Bn, Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) (-), and Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn (-). All elements of the command remained in assembly area prepared to attack through the 36th Inf Div.

CCA moved from assembly area vic RUNGEWOLF 180330 March 45, passing through the 36th Inf Div. At end of the day the 25th Tank Bn had reached GRITERSHOF and the 68th AIB had reached SALMBACH. Operations were continuously impeded by blown bridges, road blocks and road craters.

The 25th Tank Battalion launched an attack at 190700 March in direction of ALTENSTADT, advancing against small arms, AT, intense mortar and arty fire, entering the town at 0920, and reported town clear at 1100. At 1610 the battalion moved via WISSENBURG to SCHWEIGHOFEN where the town was outposted for the night. Probing patrols were sent into the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 68th AIB launched an attack from SALMBACH in direction of the LAUTER RIVER at 0700 and by 1130 reached the LAUTER RIVER. The 68th was relieved by elements of the 3rd DIA

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(French) as of 1510 and began movement to SCHWEIGHOFEN where probing patrols were sent into the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Task Force BLUE launched an attack on SCHLEUTHAL clearing the town at 0810 and continued its attack to the LAUTER RIVER, forcing a crossing at 1400. A bridgehead was established and the engineers began construction of bridge.

The 68th AIB with two platoons of infantry and one platoon of tanks, followed by remaining elements of tank and infantry companies attacked 200600 March in direction KAPS EYER which was cleared at 0625 and the attack was continued NE against the first belt of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 25th Tank Bn supported attacking infantry by fire. The attacking troops encountered intense grazing MG fire, arty and mortar fire, forcing the infantry company back to the eastern edge of KAPS EYER. A coordinated attack at 1200, following arty, mortar and AG preparation resulted in the capture of three houses in STEINFELD.

The 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) (-) patrolled roads in RIENWALD maintaining contact with the enemy. At 0330 on 20 March the 2nd Platoon Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn, attached to the 25th Tank Bn, blew a gap in the dragons teeth approximately 150 yards W of STEINFELD.

CCR, consisting of Hq CCR, 62nd AIB and Company A 48th Tank Bn, was attached to CCA and moved to assembly position vicinity KAPS EYER.

At 210500 March the command launched an attack on STEINFELD. At 0534 this attack had taken eight houses beyond the RR tracks and at 0711 held approximately one-third of the town. The attack progressed steadily and the town, except the eastern tip, was reported clear at 0855, thus breaching the outer defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications. At 1010 the supporting tanks entered the town of STEINFELD. At 1305 an enemy counter-attack in strength of approximately 100 infantrymen, was repulsed inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, although our forces were forced to give a small amount of ground in the eastern edge of town.

During the night 21-22 March 1945, the engineers widened the gap in the SIEGFRIED LINE and constructed Treadway Bridges over dragons teeth W of STEINFELD. An enemy counter-attack at 220430 March, estimated to be of company strength, was repulsed after being forced to give some ground. At 0530 an attack was launched to clear STEINFELD. The progress of the attack was held up by a road block in eastern section of town which was covered by automatic weapons fire from a pill box on NE edge of STEINFELD. The town was cleared at 1045 and at 1100 our forces began reorganization of troops and reducing pill boxes in vicinity. CCR regrouped as of 2255 with the following composition: Hq CCR, 62nd AIB (less one Company), 68th AIB with Company B, 25th Tank Bn attached. Seven pill boxes were destroyed during the day.

At 220155 the 25th Tank Bn moved with the mission of protecting the left flank of CCR. Progress was held up by road blocks in eastern part of STEINFELD. A Platoon of TD's (90mm SP) was attached to the 25th Tank Bn at 1630. The 25th Tank Bn attacked with armored elements at 1700 to reduce remaining manned pill boxes in vicinity. During the day the 25th Tank Bn destroyed 9 pill boxes, and the attached TD's destroyed an additional 5 pill boxes. Heavy artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. The 25th Tank Bn regrouped as of 222255 March consisting of 25th Tank Bn (less Companies B & D), Company A 48th Tank Bn, TD Platoon, and 155mm self-propelled gun section.

At 230450 CCR continued attack of the SIEGFRIED LINE employing the 68th AIB and captured SCHAUDT at 1100. The 62nd AIB and the 25th Tank Bn followed the attack mopping up and sealing bunkers and protecting flanks of the attack. Company

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C 125th Armd Engr Bn prepared crossings of tank obstacles.

On 24 March 1945 CCA assembled vicinity SCHLIDT and FRECKENFELD. Units patrolled and searched pill boxes and enemy abandoned defensive positions in area. The 25th Tank Bn relieved attached CCA and the 48th Tank Bn attached CCA effective 280930 March.

On 31 March 1945 CCA began movement to XV Corps, crossing RHINE River to an assembly area vicinity DIERBURG, GERMANY.

A P R I L 1 9 4 5

CCA was enroute from FRECKENFELD, GERMANY to vicinity DIERBURG, GERMANY (M7945) on 1 April 1945, crossing the RHINE RIVER at 0300A. The command closed in area DIERBURG and GUNDEHAUSEN (M7541) at 010845. The 14th Armored Division passed to control XV Corps on 1 April 1945.

On 2 April CCA began march at 0130 in one column via DIERBURG-BAPENHOUSEN-SCHAAPHEIM-GR OSTEEM-GR WALSTAD-WINTERSBACH-HEIDBUCHENTHAL-ROTHENBUCH-NEUHUTTEN with the 68th Armd Inf Bn (Reinf) passing through the forward elements of the 3rd Inf Div vic 256613 at 1515B. The 68th AIB attacked PARTENSTEIN at 1700 meeting small arms, bazooka, and self-propelled fire. The 48th Tank Bn (Reinf) closed in forward assembly area vic NEUHUTTEN.

At 030645 April the 68th AIB continued attack on PARTENSTEIN capturing the town at 1100B. It continued the attack to the NE capturing RUPPERST-HUTTEN at 1620 encountering bazooka, anti-tank and intense small arms fire. At 1630 it continued its attack toward BRUGSINN entering REGERSBRUNN with tanks and infantry at 1900B. C Company (less AT Plat) plus a section of TD's was sent to assist advance of CCB operating on our right flank. This force made little progress against small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire.

The 48th Tank Bn moved from assembly area vicinity NEUHUTTEN at 030630 April, reaching FRAHERSBACH at 1100. After being held up by a defended road block, which was by-passed at 1330, it captured LOHRHAUTEN at 1330. The attack was continued toward MITTLESINN, attacking AURA at 1700. During the operation elements of Troop C 94th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) maintained contact with CCB vic LOHR.

On 4 April 1945 the attack was continued to the NE. The 48th Tank Bn attacked from AURA crossing the ZINN RIVER at MITTLESINN and advancing through ROSSBACH to EAD BRUCKENAU. The 68th AIB crossed the ZINN RIVER at BURGSINN against slight opposition.

On the morning of 5 April the 48th captured BURCKENAU and continued the attack taking the towns of ROTERSHAG and OBR RUEDENBERG. Blown bridges and slight opposition delayed the advance. The 68th AIB met interference by elements of the 45th Inf Div and were compelled to turn SW due to lack of routes. GRAFENDORF was cleared after encountering heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire. The attack was resumed to the N against intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. The towns of DITLOFSRODA and VOLKERSBACH were cleared. The 94th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) was attached to CCA at 050845B, and was ordered to advance in center of Combat Command zone clearing scattered resistance between 48 and 68. The towns of WEISSENBRACH, MODLOS, OBR LEICHTERSBACH, BREITENBRACH, SCHONDRA, MITGENFELD, SCHILDECK, and GERODA were cleared against light opposition.

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On 6 April the 68 AIB continued its advance from VOLKERSLEIER via SCHONDERING-SCHONDRA-GERODA-PLATZ-LANDENLEITEN. SCHONDERING was cleared at 1320B and the advance was delayed by extremely difficult roads and by elements of the 3rd Inf Div using the same route. LANGENLEITEN was cleared at the close of the day. The 48th Tank Bn continued attack in zone capturing the towns of OBERBACH and WILDFLECKEN encountering small arms, MG and SP fire. The 94th Sqd pushed reconnaissance on SE flank of 48 capturing the towns of PLATZ, WLADFENSER, BURKARDROTH, STANGENROTH, and GEFALL. By tank fire and intense small arms was encountered from LANGENLEITEN and the squadron was forced to withdraw slightly.

On 7 April the mission of CCA was changed and the new mission was to seize and hold the line of the FRANK SAALE RIVER from BAD KISSENGEN to MELLRICHTSTADT.

On 7 April, the 68th AIB advanced 23 miles capturing the towns of WALDBERG, SANDBERG, KILLANSHOF, WEISBACH, SONDERAU, OBR ELSBACH, UNT ELSBACH, SIMONSHOF, BASTHEIM, WECHTERSWINDEL, and UNSLEREN, seizing crossing of the SAALE RIVER at UNSLEREN. Some resistance was encountered in SANDBERG from enemy tank fire which withdrew after being fired on by our tanks. The 48th Tank Bn advanced 14 miles capturing the towns of UNT WEISSENBURUN, WEGFURT, SCHONAU, BRENDLORENZEN, and NEUSTADT. The advance progressed rapidly, destroying many enemy guns and vehicles. Intense enemy sniper fire (soldier and civilians) was encountered in NEUSTADT and the town was reported cleared at 2230 on 7 April. The main NEUSTADT bridge was seized and held intact.

On 8 April the 68th was ordered to contact the 106th Cav Gp with view of relieving it and to protect the left flank of XV Corps. A detachment moved to RENTVERTSLAUSEN to establish security and to patrol the left (North) flank of XV Corps. The towns of HEUSTREUWITTL, STREU, OBR STREU, MELLRICHTSTADT, and UNSLEREN were occupied and active patrolling was conducted in the area. The 48th Tank Bn occupied and secured the town of NEUSTADT and secured crossings of the SAALE RIVER between HOHENROTH and HEUSTREU. The bridge at HOHENROTH was reported out and the bridge at MERSCHFELD seized intact. The 94th Cav Ren Sqdn with Company D 48th Tank Bn and Company A 636th Tank Destroyer (less 2 platoons) attached were ordered to seize and secure all crossings of the SAALE RIVER between BAD KISSENGEN and STEINACH. The unit seized and secured two bridges at 740892 and 742892. The towns of WINDHEIM, BOCKLET, PURGLAUER, and MDR LAUER were cleared. The unit was ordered to assemble vicinity BURKARDROTH-STANGENROTH and establish liaison with the 106th Cav Gp.

On 9 April 1945 at 1515 the 68th AIB contacted the Third Army at MELLRICHTSTADT. The 68th was relieved of patrolling and securing the left (North) flank of XV Corps by the 94th Cav. Elements of CCA continued outpostting its zone concurrently carrying on maintenance of arms, vehicles and personnel and preparing for future operations.

On 11 April the Combat Command moved to assembly area vicinity GLEISCHAMBERG.

At 0730 on 12 April the 68th AIB attacked with mission of seizing and securing crossings over the MAIN RIVER vicinity EHNISFELD. The attack progressed along difficult roads meeting no enemy resistance. The MAIN RIVER was reached

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at 1220 and all bridges over the river in the zone were found destroyed. The river was crossed through a ford E of DORINGSTADT and the final objective was reached with dismounted infantry at 1600. EBENSFELD and the high ground N and E were cleared thus securing the crossings of the MAIN RIVER.

At 0630 on 12 April the 48th Tank Bn attacked with mission of seizing and securing crossings over the MAIN RIVER in vicinity of STAFFELSTEIN. At 1120 the river was reached and all bridges were found to be blown. The river was crossed by means of a ford vicinity UNNERSDORF. The town of STAFFELSTEIN was entered and cleared against slight opposition. Both columns advanced 40 miles during the day and secured crossings of the MAIN RIVER.

On 13 April Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn constructed a bridge over MAIN RIVER at UNNERSDORF. CCA began crossing the MAIN RIVER at 1630 and proceeded to assembly area vicinity WADENDORF-HOLLFELD. The 48th Tank Bn met no opposition except in HOLLFELD where slight small arms resistance was encountered. The 68th AIB met determined enemy resistance along its more westerly route. Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) initiated reconnaissance to the BAYREUTH-NURNBERG AUTOBAHN at 2300. The 68th AIB resumed the attack on 14th April seizing and securing objective NEUHAUS-SACHSENDORF-AUFSESS, maintaining contact with the 106th Cav Gp on right.

Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sqdn (Mecz) with rifle and antitank squads from 48th Tank Bn attached, moved to reconnoiter zone of advance to include NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN, seize the towns of NEUDORF-HORLACH-WOLLENBERG and to push reconnaissance to the SE. A platoon of tanks cut the AUTOBAHN at 0945 with the remainder of the column being delayed by difficult roads. At 1200 most of the column had reached the AUTOBAHN and the objective was taken at 1240. At 1630 a task force composed of a tank platoon, a TD platoon and two platoons of infantry was given the mission of attacking POTTENSTEIN from the E and reduce resistance there. The task force was held up in the vicinity of WANNBERG by a road block defended by approximately 50 enemy and AT guns.

The 68th AIB attacked at 0630 with mission of cutting NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN and seizing towns of RIEGELSTEIN-EICHENSTRUTH-WALLSDORF and to push reconnaissance SE. The advance was delayed by heavy traffic on roads in area by adjacent units on right. An attack was launched with dismounted infantry supported by tanks with the mission of clearing the town of GUSSTENSTEIN. The unit advanced to and cleared BETZENSTEIN, assembling there for the night.

At 0630 on 16 April the 38th AIB dispatched a detachment to assist the 48th Tank Bn in clearing POTTENSTEIN. Undeclared road blocks were encountered and the town was reported clear at 0900. The main body of the 68th continued the attack to the southeast from BETZENSTEIN, advancing via the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN. The attack was temporarily held up by small arms and mortar fire in the vicinity of PLECH at 0900. Bypassing the resistance at PLECH the advance was continued, clearing RIEGELSTEIN at 1105, encountering only occasional sniper fire. The towns of EICHEN, STRUTHGERHEIM, HEMNEBERG, ILLAFELD, and BERNHOF were reported clear at 1345. The 68th AIB was given the mission of contacting elements of the 45th Inf Div in vicinity of SCHAITTACH and to protect the left flank of the 45th Inf Div N of the PEGNITZ RIVER. The contact was established

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at 1630. The following towns were cleared SPIES, PLECH, HORTERSDORF, REINGRUB, MENSCHOF, WALLSDORF, RAITENBERG, KREPPLING, STEINENSITTENBACH, TREUP, SCHLOSSBERG, KERUBUHL, and DONDORT. A hospital was captured at RUPPECHTSTEGEN containing a staff of 20 and 165 patients.

At 0700 on 17 April a tank lead enemy counterattack was launched on BENTZENSTEIN, the location of HQ CCA, and the CCA Reserve consisting of Company D 48th Tank Bn (-), Company A 636th Tank Destroyer Bn (-), Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn (-), and Hq Co CCA. The attack was repulsed at 1000.

At 1230 the 68th began movement to seize POLLING and vicinity. The battalion reached the town of RASCH at the end of the day. Large quantities of medical supplies were captured in ALTENSITTENBACH. Contact was made with the 106th Cav Gp. The 94th Cav Ren Sqdn was attached to CCA and given the mission of protecting the left flank of CCA and the 14th Armd Div.

On 18 April the 68th continued the attack reaching and securing the town of POLLING against slight opposition. The 48th Tank Bn continued its attack toward NEUMARKT, advancing to RICHTEN, encountering considerable small arms and SP fire.

On 19 April the 68th moved its reconnaissance elements from POLLING on NEUMARKT to determine if the town was defended. The town was reported to be defended and an attack was launched on the town at 0930. Advancing slowly from the west, elements entered STABIA, encountering heavy antitank fire from the western edge of NEUMARKT. Attacking SE on the town one company encountered heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire from western edge of town. One platoon Company C entered NEUMARKT at 1300 and at 1725 established contact with dismounted elements of 48th Tank Bn entering the town from the N. At the close of the day the 68th held 10 houses in the western edge of NEUMARKT. The 48th Tank Bn attacked NEUMARKT from the N against heavy mortar and AT fire. Dismounted troops entered the town at 1600 against very stiff resistance. Contact was made with the 68th in the factory in NEUMARKT. The 94th Cav Ren Sqdn continued the mission of reconnoitering the left flank of CCA, encountering small arms, intermittent artillery and tank fire. The town of WADENHOF was captured at 1130.

On 20 April all elements were withdrawn from NEUMARKT for the purpose of directing air missions on the town. Four missions were flown on the town from 0800 to 1400. The 48th Tank Bn moved from assembly position vicinity of RUDHEIM to seize crossing over the DOLAU RIVER, advancing to the vicinity of POSTBAUER where it was held up by small arms and AT fire. An attack was launched on POSTBAUER at 1915 and at 2020 the battalion had dismounted troops in the NW corner of town. The 68th AIB remained in assembly position vicinity POLLING on an alert status. A detachment was sent to clear the towns of HENG and KOSTLRACH, which were reported clear at 202300 and 210015 respectively.

On the 21 of April the 68th continued the attack and cleared KERLATH at 1230 encountering determined enemy resistance consisting of intense small arms, AT and scattered artillery fire. The 48th Tank Bn continued the attack on

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POSTBAUER on 21 April after an artillery preparation. The battalion was forced to withdraw at 0825 upon receipt of intense bazooka and sniper fire. At 1012 an artillery preparation was repeated and the troops again attacked the town. The town was reported cleared at 1600 against sniper and AT fire. The command was reorganized and the attack continued encountering flat trajectory and intense small arms fire. The enemy force comprised elements of the 17th SS Grenadier Division.

The 68th AIB continued the attack on 22 April capturing the towns of RITTERSHOF and TYROLSBERG, encountering enemy small arms and artillery fire. The 48th continued the attack in W sector of CCA zone with dismounted infantry and tanks which received intense small arms and artillery fire S of HENG and were forced to withdraw into town of HENG. At 1300 a tank infantry attack was launched but was unable to advance due to enemy heavy artillery, high velocity AT and small arms fire. At the close of the day the Combat Command, less 48th as constituted, was enroute to assembly area vicinity ECKERSHULEN. The 25th Tank Bn as constituted was attached to CCA. Road conditions were unusually severe for this operation, all vehicles requiring tow.

CCA was given the mission of protecting the division rear area and supply routes. The command followed the Reserve Command, moving from assembly area to assembly area close behind CCR.

CCA moved on 28 April with the mission of seizing crossings over the ISAR RIVER. The 68th advanced to MAINBURG encountering small arms, bazooka and mortar fire on route. The 47th Tank Bn now attached to CCA, proceeded on route to initial objective of KIRCHDORF then on to FORGERTSHAUSEN. The 68th continued the attack on 29 April to seize crossings over ISAR RIVER at LANDSHUT. The advance reached PFETTRACH against scattered groups of infantry. At 1540 an attack on ALTDORF was made encountering heavy small arms and some AT fire. The town was captured at 1750. The attack was continued on LANDSHUT where the troops were forced to withdraw from the outskirts of LANDSHUT due to MG and flat trajectory fire. The 68th passed to control of CCR at 2230.

The 47th Tank Bn attack was delayed for three hours by a truce, awaiting an enemy reply to unconditional surrender terms given them in response to their proposal for a certain neutral zone in the vicinity of MOOSBURG. Inasmuch as no further communication was received, the attack was launched at 0900 in two columns, encountering moderate resistance, which was overrun. The town of MOOSBURG was entered at 1125. An allied PW camp was liberated containing 28,000 British, American, Russian, and French prisoners of war. Among the allied prisoners were twenty-eight Russian general officers. Another Allied prisoner camp was liberated in ERGOLDING, releasing three thousand Allied prisoners of war. Approximately 4000 enemy were captured during the day. The 62nd AIB was moved into MOOSBURG, passing to control of CCA.

On 30 April the infantry elements of both battalions (47 and 62nd, - the latter now attached to CCA) established bridgeheads across the ISAR RIVER in vicinity of MOOSBURG, encountering small arms, SP and occasional mortar and artillery fire. Company C 125th Armd Engr Bn assisted the 998th Treadway Bridge Company in building bridge over ISAR RIVER in vicinity of MOOSBURG.

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M A Y

On May 1, Combat Command "A" was awaiting the completion of a treadway bridge over the ISAR RIVER before continuing the attack. The river was crossed and the Combat Command attacked SE with the mission of seizing crossings over the INN RIVER. The 62nd AIB advanced on axis AICHBUCH-VILSHEIM-ALTFRAUNHOFEN-WORNSTORE-VILSBIBURG against scattered enemy resistance consisting of small arms fire, difficult road conditions and blown bridges. The 47th Tank Bn advanced against slight enemy resistance and similar road conditions and blown bridges on axis AICH-BUCH-VILSHEIM-ALTFRAUNHOFEN-BAIERBACH-HOF-NEUFRAUNHOFEN-VILSLERN-OB MARIABERG-EBERSPOINT.

At 0300 on 2 May the attack was pushed forward with small task forces in an attempt to reach objective under cover of darkness. The 47th Tank Bn advanced rapidly against no opposition until the bridge over the INN RIVER at MUHLDORF was reached at which time the enemy blew the bridge just as the leading tank was on the bridge approach. A bridgehead over the INN RIVER was established.

The Combat Command remained in MUHLDORF area combing zone for enemy and performing maintenance of vehicles and personnel. On 8 May came the announcement that the war in Europe was officially ended at 090001 May thus finding Combat Command "A" located in vicinity of MUHLDORF performing occupational duties at the conclusion of the great war against Germany. Germany was "KAPUT."

Summary of Combat Service of Combat Command "A" from 20 November 1944 to 084400 May 1945.

Days in action - - - - -	82
Miles traveled by Hq CCA (aprx) --	1520
Towns captured - - - - -	354
Axis Prisoners - - - - -	17807

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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
COMMAND POST LOCATIONS
10 NOVEMBER to 09 MAY 45

10 Nov 45 Opened VERRIER de PORTIEUX
20 Closed VERRIER de PORTIEUX 1400; opened ST REMY.
21 Closed ST REMY
22 Opened CIREY
23 Closed CIREY; Opened ST QUIRIN
24 Closed ST QUIRIN
25 Opened LE DONON
27 Closed LE DONON; opened OBERNAI
28 Closed OBERNAI; opened GOXWILLER
1 Dec 44 Closed GOXWILLER; opened ST PIERRE; closed ST PIERRE,
 opened EPFIG.
3 Closed EPFIG; opened ZOEBERSDORF.
13 Closed ZOEBERSDORF 0700; opened SURBOURG 1700.
14 Closed SURBOURG 1000; opened SOULTZ 1300; closed SOULTZ
 1600; opened INGOLSHEIM 1700.
15 Closed INGOLSHEIM 1615; opened RIEDSELTZ 1615.
16 Closed RIEDSELTZ 1630; opened WESSEMBOURG 1630.
24 Closed WISSEMBOURG 0900; opened KUTZENHAUSEN-le-HAUT 1000.
28 Closed KUTZENHAUSEN-le-HAUT 2000.
29 Opened SIEWILLER 0300.
1 Jan 45 Closed SIEWILLER 1000; opened DIEMERINGEN 1245.
2 Closed DIEMERINGEN 1030; opened BOUXWILLER 1400.
6 Closed BOUXWILLER 2100;
7 Opened SOULTZ 0400; closed SOULTZ 1520; opened HOELSCHLOCH
 1520.
11 Closed HOELSCHLOCH 1600; opened KUHLENDORF 1600..
16 Closed KUHLENDORF 2030; opened NIEDERBETSCHDORF 2030.
20 Closed NIEDERBETSCHDORF 2015; opened SURBOURG 2100.
21 Closed SURBOURG 0600; opened WILWISHEIM 1400.
4 Mar 45 Closed WILWISHEIM 1500; opened RINGENDORF 1600.
18 Closed RINGENDORF 0340; opened SURBOURG 0800; closed
 SURBOURG 1400; opened RITTERSHOFEN 1600; closed RITTERS-
 HOFEN 1955.
19 Opened OBERSEEBACH 0030; closed OBERSEEBACH 2345.
22 Closed WISSEMBOURG 1115; opened SCHWEIGHOFEN 1115.
24 Opened MINFELD 0020; closed MINFELD 1134; opened HATZEN-
 BUHL 1315; closed HATZENBUHL 1745; opened FRECKENFELD 1840.
31 Closed FRECKENFELD 1800.
1 Apr 45 Opened DIEBURG 0630.
2 Closed DIEBURG 0300; opened WIESTHAL 1930.
3 Closed WIESTHAL 1330; opened FRATERSBACH 1445.
4 Closed FRATERSBACH 0600; opened FELLEN 1500; closed FELLEN
 1800; opened WERNARZ 2100.
5 Closed WERNARZ 1300; opened BRUCKENAU 1330.
7 Closed BRUCKENAU 0630; opened OBERBACH 0715; closed
 OBERBACH 1430; opened BRENDLORENZEN 2030.
11 Closed BRENDLORENZEN 1620; opened GLEICHAMBERG 1900.
12 Closed GLEICHAMBERG 0700; opened DORUNGSTADT 1700.

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13 Apr 45	Closed DORINGSTADT 1300; opened HOLLFELD 2015.
15	Closed HOLFELD 0645; opened BRONN 1700.
16	Closed BRONN 1400; opened BENTZENSTEIN 1500.
17	Closed BENTZENSTEIN 1245; opened ALTDORF 2100.
18	Closed ALTDORF 1445; opened UNT OLSBACH 1845.
19	Closed UNT OLSBACH 1400; opened PERG 1500.
21	Closed BERG 1015; opened DILLBERG 1100.
22	Closed DILLBERG 2130
23	Opened BERG 1000; closed BERG 1700; opened ECKERSMUEHLEN 2200.
24	Closed ECKERSMUEHLEN 1230; opened HOFSTETTEN 1410; closed HOFSTETTEN 1440; opened GROSS-HOBING 2120.
25	Closed GROSS-HOBING 1430; opened ALTDORF 1530.
26	Closed ALTDORF 1330;
27	Opened DEMLING 0030; closed DEMLING 0815; opened THEISSING 0845.
28	Closed THEISSING 1315; opened PUTTENHAUSEN 2330.
29	Closed PUTTENHAUSEN 0910; opened GAMELSDORF 1130.
30	Closed GAMELSDORF 0830; opened MAUERN 0915; closed MAUERN 1400; opened MOOSEBURG 1445.
1 May 45	Closed MOOSEBURG 0845; opened OB MARIABERG 2200.
2	Closed OB MARIABERG 1100; opened METTENHEIM 1900.

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Among the outstanding events of Combat Command "A" during its European operations was the liberation of the Allied Prisoner of War Camp at Moosberg, Germany. Following is an account of this eventful day, 29 April 1945:

It is 0600, 29 April. The attack of Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armored Division is due to be resumed at this moment. The command post is located in Puttenhausen, Germany.

Lt Col James W. Lann's 47th Tank Battalion is eight miles to the south-east where it halted operations at 11 PM last night. Lt Col Bob E. Edward's 68th Armored Infantry Battalion is three miles north of the command post, having run into hard resistance late the preceding day and having been ordered to halt in Mainburg to avoid running into a known night ambush that "Heinie" had prepared along its prescribed route.

GERMAN DELEGATION APPROACHES

Soon now, reports should arrive that the battalions were moving, and the guns of Lt Col Joseph J. Murtha's 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion should be heard when Jerry resistance was encountered, - but this day was to begin differently. At one minute before 0600 a strange group strode into the headquarters of Combat Command "A", to meet Brigadier General C. H. Karlstad, the Combat Commander. It consisted of a German Major, representing the commander of the Moosburg Allied Prisoner of War Camp, who had brought with him Colonel Paul S. Goode of the United States Army and Group Commander Willets of the British Royal Air Force, the senior American and British Officers respectively, imprisoned in the Moosburg Camp, Colonel Goode had been captured in the hectic clashes of the Normandy Beach landings. A Swiss Red Cross representative accompanied this delegation which was headed by Lt Col Lann of the 47th Tank Battalion, who had ordered his attack withheld pending action of the German Army proposals for a local armistice. The German Major brought a written proposal from his commander for the creation of a neutral zone surrounding Moosburg, all movement of allied troops in the general vicinity of Moosburg to stop while representative of the Allied and German Governments conferred on disposition of the Allied Prisoners of War in that vicinity. Obviously, "Heinie" had other interests in that area than 100,000 Allied Prisoners of War.

The result of the conference, conducted through interpreters, was to reject the German proposals and to give the party until 0900 to make a hurried return to Moosburg and for the German commander to submit an unconditional surrender offer, - or receive the American attack at that hour. A Staff Officer of Combat Command "A" was dispatched to Major General A. C. Smith, the Division Commander, to inform him of the situation.

No further word having come from the enemy commander by 0900, Lann's 47th Tank Battalion launched a sharp, fast-moving attack which by 1100 had overrun the German defenses of the city and had reached the bridge over the Isar River, which, melodramatically, was blown to destruction as the leading tank was actually moving onto it.

Large numbers of German prisoners were being rounded up by Lann's Tank and Infantry platoons, including one large group that stated it was the guard of the prison camp.

PRISON CAMP IS CAPTURED

Brigadier General Karlstad had gone into Moosburg with the 47th Tank Battalion. He questioned selected German Officers briefly, and selected a German captain to act as his guide to the prison camp. Hurriedly gathered information indicated that the principal elements of the camp guard had been captured and were disarmed. With 1st Lieutenant Joseph P. Luby of the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion and 2d Lieutenant William J. Hodges, Aide, and their 3 "Peep Drivers", this party started across town, guided by the German captain to the Allied Prisoner of War Camp. As this little convoy, carrying one mounted caliber .30 machine-gun, approached the camp gate, the alarming sight of a large number of armed "Heinies" in the outer yard of the great camp was noted, but Lt Luby took exactly the right action.

Without slackening his speed but with both hands on the business end of his machine-gun he rolled into the middle of the German formation, brought his peep to a sudden halt and called "Actung". The German guard of 240 men was ordered to line up and to drop their weapons in front of them. The two young officers and 3 drivers went rapidly down the line receiving the pistol belts from officers and making a quick search for arms in the pockets of the guards.

SURRENDER IS RECEIVED

General Karlstad called for the German Camp commander and received an oral unconditional surrender of the German garrison and the camp. The first allied prisoners to present themselves were Group Commander Willets and Colonel Goode, who had accompanied the delegation earlier in the morning. In a few moments an enterprising American produced a United States Flag - from where, perhaps only he knew - and amid thunderous cheers from the prisoners, ran it to the top of the camp flag pole. It was a dramatic moment.

DIVISION COMMANDER VISITS CAMP

A few minutes later, Major General A. C. Smith appeared to inspect the camp and to receive the senior American and British representatives.

There were 28,000 American, British and Russian Prisoners of War including 27 Russian General Officers, within the Moosburg camp enclosure. In the general vicinity there were many thousands more, the total, according to German estimates, amounting to 110,000 of all nationalities of the Allies.

It had been a great day for the 14th Armored Division.

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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 446 U S ARMY

hrb
5 January 1945

HISTORY OF COMBAT COMMAND "A"
MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

The Combat Command was proceeding in two road fighting columns south from OBERNAI with SELESTAT as the objective. The 62d Armored Infantry Battalion reinforced proceeded south on the main OBERNAI - SELESTAT Highway, which the 48th Tank Battalion reinforced followed a roughly parallel course west of the main highway proceeding south from BARR.

CCA gained the objective assigned by VI Corps -- SCHERWILLER - EBERSHEIM -- on 1 Dec 1944. 62 AIB entered and secured the town of EBERSHEIM against enemy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. 48 Tk Bn reached SCHERWILLER turned east and encountered a defended road block 1 mile east of town.

CCA was attached to 103 Inf Div at 011000 December 1944 and relieved from attachment thereto and placed in VI Corps Reserve 012115 Dec. CCA moved north to join the 14th Armd Div in vicinity HOCHFELDEN 031700 December. The combat command closed vicinity HOCHFELDEN 040330 December.

On 6 Dec the division commander reorganized the tactical groupings, the following units being attached to CCA: 25 Tk Bn, 62 AIB, Tr B 94 Ren Sqdn (Mecz), Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn, and Co A 84 Armd Med Bn. During the period 4 December to 12 December, units directed their time to training and maintenance of vehicles, weapons and personnel.

On 7 December, CCA was given the mission of increasing vehicular and radio activity in vicinity GUEDERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, and HOERDT, during the period 8 to 10 December.

62 AIB conducted a demonstration on "Assault of a Fortified Area" and the 25 Tk Bn conducted a demonstration on "Passage of An Armored Column

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through Towns and Villages".

Three platoons of Co C 25 Tk Bn operated in vicinity GUEBERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, HOERDT and reconnaissance was made of area GUEBERSHEIM, BRUMATH, WERTBURCH as per orders 14 Arm'd Div. Other units reconnoitered routes and area of possible future operations.

On 13 Dec CCA was given the mission of attacking on axis SURBOURG - WISSEMBOURG; seize WISSEMBOURG area and crossings over LAUTER RIVER. On 13 December CCA following CCB moved in one column from vicinity ZOEBERSDORF via HOCHFELDEN - HAGUENAU, reaching SOULTZ with advance elements at dark. First enemy contact was made by 62 AIB on the outskirts of SOULTZ. Tr C 94 Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) was attached to CCA at SURBOURG and operated in zone REIMERSWILLER - HATTEN with patrols reaching HOHWILLER and STUNDWILLER.

On 14 December the 62 AIB advanced four miles seizing towns of SCHOENENBERG and INGOLSHEIM, being stopped at RIEDELTZ by a blown bridge where the column received heavy artillery and mortar fire. The 25 Tk Bn advanced to OBERSEEBACH where it was held up by a blown bridge.

The 62 AIB constructed a bridge at the north edge of RIEDELTZ under enemy artillery and mortar fire. Dismounted infantry pushed forward followed by tanks through organized enemy positions, being pinned down one kilometer north of RIEDELTZ by heavy and accurate artillery fire. 25 Tk Bn completed construction of bridge east of OBERSEEBACH during early morning and launched attack from OBERSEEBACH advancing five kilometers before being held up by anti-tank, artillery and mortar fire. Column received counterattack by six enemy tanks which was repulsed knocking out two of the enemy tanks.

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pillboxes. Night patrols operated to reconnoiter the SIEGFRIED LINE.

68 AIB ordered by 14 AD to relieve 62 AIB, completed its relief by 180100A Dec 1944.

On 18 December, 68 AIB attacked and reached northern outskirts of OBEROTTERBACH, encountering heavy resistance of artillery, small arms and accurate sniper fire, and was forced to withdraw into OBEROTTERBACH. 68 received counterattack in afternoon which cut off two platoons of Co B 68 in the town of OBEROTTERBACH. The battalion established defensive position approximately 800 yards south of OBEROTTERBACH astride N-S road. The bulk of the personnel cut off in OBEROTTERBACH rejoined the battalion during the night.

CCA was given the mission of organizing a defensive line generally between RECHTENBACH and KAPSWEYER and delivering harassing fire on fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE. No attack to be made except by fire.

The 25 Tk Bn in vicinity KAPSWEYER was harassed by artillery and sniper fire. Dismounted activity was confined to patrolling, to determine the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications, establishing observation posts and clearing snipers from KAPSWEYER. An air-support mission was flown on STEINFELD with little apparent effect.

The Shedd Task force was disbanded on 19 December. 25 Tk Bn was relieved by 48 Tk Bn. Attack by fire against fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE was continued by both battalions.

Relief of CCA by 315 Inf Regt of the 79 Inf Div began on 22 December and was completed on 24 December with command in zone being turned over to 315th Inf at 0900. CCA closed in assembly area vicinity of KUTZENHAUSEN on 24 December.

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[REDACTED]

Tr B 94 Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) was given the mission of occupying and holding STEINSELTZ and OBERHOFFEN. Tr C 94 patrolled the bypassed MAGINOT LINE fortifications in CCA zone.

On 16 December 62 AIB continued the attack to the north seizing WISSEMBOURG and crossing the German border at 1202A, advancing to the area north of RECHTENBACH where night outposts and prisoner traps were established. 25 Tk Bn continued the attack to the north encountering a blown bridge at ALTENSTADT. Patrols advanced through WISSEMBOURG, crossed the German border at 1100A, proceeded to the northeast to SCHWEIGHOFEN where outposts and prisoner traps were established.

On 17 December the 25 Tk Bn continued the attack to the northeast advancing one kilometer past SCHWEIGHOFEN. A force comprised of the following: Tr C 94, 1 Plat Co A 25 Tk Bn, 1st & 3d Plats Co D 25 Tk Bn, two assault guns, two rifle squads, two combat engineer squads and a tank dozer, commanded by Major Shedd of the 25 Tk Bn, was given the mission of pushing on BERGZABERN and KAPELLEN for the purpose of determining enemy dispositions and strength along the line of the ERLENBACH RIVER and ground immediately north thereof. Task Force Shedd advanced to south edge of OBEROTTERBACH where it was held up by fire from SIEGFRIED LINE.

On 17 December all units CCA moved south of safety line SCHWEIGEN - SCHWEIGHOFEN for armored vehicles; WISSEMBOURG - ALTENSTADT for unarmored vehicles, giving clearance for air bombardment missions. Both columns and Shedd Task force attacked at 1330, 62 advancing to one kilometer north of RECHTENBACH and 25 advancing to western outskirts of STEINFELD where it encountered a road block. Shedd Task Force advanced two kilometers north of SCHWEIGHOFEN where it was held up by impassable roads and heavy fire from

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The period 24 to 28 December was spent in training of replacements, physical conditioning, maintenance of vehicles and weapons and reconnaissance of possible routes of operations. Officers and key NCOs attended counter-sabotage instruction given by 7th Army on 28 December.

CCA was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached XV Corps for operations on 28 December. CCA closed in assembly area in vicinity SIEWILLER 290500 December. CCA in XV Corps reserve, was alerted to move on Corps order on three hours notice from assembly area, prepared to counter-attack in direction DRULINGEN - SARRE UNION or DRULINGEN - RAHLING; or to move to the vicinity of TIEFFENBACH to block passage thru VOSGES between TIEFFENBACH and PHALSBOURG. Period 29 to 31 December spent reconnoitering possible routes for future operations, and organizing for execution of assigned missions. Training and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was carried on by all units.

Localities captured by CCA during month of December.

<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>
HERMERSWILLER	SCHWEIGHOFEN
HOFFEN	KAFSWEYER
HUNSPACH	ST PAUL
OBERSEEBACH	SCHWEIGEN
GEUTERHOF	RECHTENBACH
GEISBERG	
SCHOENENBOURG	
INGOLSHEIM	
RIEDELSTZ	
OBERDOF	
WISSEMBOURG	
ALTENSTADT	

Troop List - 1 December 1944.

Hq & Hq Co CCA

25 Tank Battalion

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Troop List (Contd)

Co A 84 Armd Med Bn	48 Tank Battalion
Tr B 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	62 Armd Inf Bn
Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn	500 Armd Field Arty Bn
Co C 136 Ord Maint Bn	69 Armd Field Arty Bn
A & B Btry 398 AAA	
MP Det 14AD	
Sig Det 154 Sig Co	

Losses and Gains during month of December.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Gains</u>
4 Dec 44	48 Tk Bn 500 AFA Bn Co C 136 Ord Maint Bn A & B Btry, 398 AAA 69 AFA Bn MP Det 14 AD Sig Det 154 Sig Co	
13 Dec 44		Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz) Det MP Plat 14AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co
18 Dec 44	62 Armd Inf Bn	68 Armd Inf Bn
19 Dec 44	25 Tk Bn	48 Tk Bn
21 Dec 44	Tr B 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	
24 Dec 44	Co A 84 Armd Med Bn Det MP Plat 14 AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co	
25 Dec 44	Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn	
26 Dec 44	Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	
28 Dec 44		501 AFA Bn Co A 84 Armd Med Bn Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz) Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn Co B 136 Ord Maint Bn Btry D 398 AAA Det MP Plat 14 AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co

Troop List as of 31 December 1944

Hq & Hq CCA
 48 Tk Bn
 68 AIB
 501 AFA Bn
 Co A, 84 Armd Med Bn
 Co B, 136 Ord Maint Bn
 Tr C, 94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Meoz)
 Co C, 125 Armd Engr Bn
 D Btry 398 AAA
 Det MP Plat 14 AD
 Det 154 Armd Sig Co

Roster of Key PersonnelCombat Command Staff

C. E. Karlstad, Col. Inf Comdg
 John G. Montgomery, Maj Inf Ex O
 Humbert F. Biasella, Maj Inf S-4
 Louis T. Gabriel, Jr, Maj MC Med O
 Daniel R. Gentry, Maj FA S-3
 DeWitt C. Armstrong III, Capt Inf S-2
 Robert B. Fulton III, 1st Lt Inf Asst S-3
 Donald R. McVeigh, 1st Lt Inf Ln O
 William J. Hodges, 2d Lt Inf S-1
 Madison V. Scott, 2d Lt FA Comm O
 Archibald R. Schaffer, 1st Lt Cav Hq Comdt
 Roy L. Crews, 1st Lt Chaplain
 John P. Stanton, 1st Lt. Chaplain

Unit Commanders

Ernest C. Watson, Lt Col 25 Tk Bn
 James H. Myers, Lt Col 62 AIB
 Bob E. Edwards, Lt Col 68 AIB
 John C. Cavin, Maj 48 Tk Bn
 D. V. Swanson, Lt Col 500 AFA Bn
 Joseph H. Harrison, Lt Col 501 AFA Bn
 Frederick J. Schwind, Capt A-84
 John E. Martin, 1st Lt B-94
 James C. Fry, Capt C-94
 Franklin R. Wallace, Capt C-125
 Jay W. Hornbeak, Capt B-136

Casualties - December 1944

	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>
Killed	0	26
Wounded	8	163
Non-battle casualties	0	92
Replacements Received	6	198
Axis Prisoners	74	
Battle & non-battle casualties		
returned to duty	68	

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APC 446
U. S. Army

7 January 1945

UNIT PERIODIC HISTORY
MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944

The company performed its usual services for the Combat Command "A" Headquarters during its operations for the month - presented in detail in the CC "A" periodic history.

OPENING TIMES OF COMMAND POSTS

1 Dec 44.....	Goxwiller
010830.....	St. Pierre
011326.....	Epfig
032325.....	Zoebersdorf
131725.....	Surburg
141130.....	Soultz
141920.....	Ingolsheim
151515.....	Riedseltz
161520.....	Wissembourg
171110.....	Riedseltz
171445.....	Wissembourg
240905.....	Kutzenhausen Le Haut
290050.....	Siewiller
31 Dec 44.....	Siewiller

CASUALTIES

Killed.....	None
Wounded.....	None
Non-battle casualties.....	2
Transfers (out).....	1
Replacements received.....	None
Returned to duty.....	None

STRENGTH AS OF 31 DEC 44

Officers	
1st Lieutenants.....	3
Warrant Officer (JG).....	1
	4
E.M. (including 2 Medical	
attachments).....	75

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFER	1ST LT.	01015913
STAIR, JOHN A.	1ST LT.	01013869
MURRAY, NORMAN J.	1ST LT.	01015889
FALK, WARREN J.	WOJG	W-2128014

Archibald R. Schaffer
ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFER,
1st Lieut., Cav.,
Commanding.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
11TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 6
U. S. ARMY

On the first of Nov 1944, CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of Septemes, France. The period 1 Nov to 6 Nov was spent preparing for movement to the north into the combat area. Supply shortages were corrected as much as possible along with maintenance of equipment and training of units. On the 5th of Nov the advance party left for the north to prepare for the arrival of the troops. On Tuesday, 7 Nov the first troops and track vehicles left Septemes by rail (boxcars and flatcars) with destination Chatel, France. The first wheeled vehicle column departed Septemes by road on 8 Nov 44, and arrived 10 Nov as did the first trains of troops and tanks.

CCA closed vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux on 14 Nov 1944. The period 10 Nov to 19 Nov was spent bivouacked in the vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux preparing men and equipment for combat. Tactical studies were made of the fighting ability of tanks in the area that the command was destined for fighting. Column formations were formed for the purpose of meeting the problem of tanks being confined to the roads.

At 201400 Nov 44 CCA marched in two columns towards assembly area vic ST. ANDRE and LAUSANNE from which it was to cross the SAONE RIVER and attack to the east. After having been restrained by VI Corps west of the line ST. ANDRE-LAUSANNE for approximately 10 hours, units occupied their assigned areas.

At 211400 Operations Memorandum to 12 HqVI Corps was received changing the mission of CCA to a march northwest from RABENVILLERS thru BACCAUT-BLANFORT and CIREY to attack southeast to seize SCHIMMELCK and block enemy forces withdrawing to the northeast. At 1900 the column having completely reversed and reformed, began the march ordered. The column halted on side roads vic BLANFORT between 2300 and 0030 at which time it resumed the march.

At 220030 the first enemy contact was made by the point of the 02 AB leading the CCA column. After removing one road block the 02 was halted by another defended road block located at V500995. Enemy resistance was stubborn; small arms, machine gun and mortar fire held up our advance. About 1100 the 48 TR on CCA order sent a strong reconnaissance element down the ABBESCE WILHELM-LE DUC road. By dark no report had been received of this recon and the command outposted for the night.

At approximately 1900 message was received indicating transfer of CCA from VI Corps to XV Corps as of 1400.

On the morning of 20 Nov, 02 continued the attack up the BLANC-RUPT VALLEY and the 48 attacked up the ST. QUININ valley. Both meeting defended road blocks. At the end of the day, our most advanced elements were at V536946. On 24 Nov both columns succeeded in breaking thru resistance and reaching a road junction V530914 near LE DUCON. The 48 having reached the road first continued the attack down the road toward SCHIMMELCK and was halted in the late afternoon by a large road crater at V532889.

By the next morning the road crater had been filled and the 48 continued its attack. XV Corps order of the previous evening had changed the CCA objective to a point 800 yards northwest of SCHIMMELCK so as to prevent interference with VI Corps troops rapidly approaching SCHIMMELCK from the southwest.

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The objective was reached by the 25th at 1830 after several heavy fire fights near the town of B. Contact was then made with units of VI Corps and by 7th Army order OCA at that time was attached for operations to VI Corps.

The command remained on the SCHEIDT - ST Q. BARR road until the morning of November at which time it marched by two columns to the Valley of the R. LINE and turned south thru Oud. BAI with the mission of seizing and holding the line LIEBEN - B. FELD - GELLESSTAT. First contact was made at a defended road block at the CR northeast of GOXWILLER V. 131. The west column, 25th Bn pushed thru this road block and moved south thru moderate resistance to GELTWILLER V. 079 where it was stopped by a blown bridge. The 48th Bn passed just east of GOXWILLER and turned to the southeast towards VALFF after a stiff fight on the west edge of VALFF, the 48th pushed thru, but was stopped by a blown bridge on the eastern edge of VALFF. The 02 which had been in reserve had meanwhile been sent thru BIRSCHOFFEN - KILCHERGETSCHEN and MINDISCHEN to attack south down the LIEBEN - B. FELD - GELLESSTAT road. Shortly after dark, head of this column reached a point just northeast of B. FELD and met extremely heavy resistance. The enemy attacked with small arms, automatic weapons, mortars, antitank guns and artillery. The 02 was forced to withdraw. The 25th had meanwhile found a bypass around the blown bridge at GELTWILLER and attempted to cross. Heavy antitank and machine gun fire prevented the successful crossing and the 25th withdrew just to the north edge of town and outposted for the night. The 48th meanwhile had reformed its column and moved so that its head was at MINDISCHEN. VI Corps order restricted our zone for the next days attack to the Oud. BAI - GELLESSTAT highway and routes west thereof.

On 28 Nov the 25th continued its attack on GELTWILLER meeting very heavy resistance and being unable to push thru. The 48th attacked thru MELLIGENSTEIN and into B. FELD where it met extremely heavy antitank fire which inflicted many casualties and forced the withdrawal of the Bn.

On 29 Nov, 02, which had reverted to reserve on the previous day moved around to the east of the 25th thru BOURCHEN and ZELLWILLER to a position just north of ST PIERRE where it was halted by a blown bridge heavily defended. The 48th moved thru B. FELD to BIRSCHOFFEN where it was halted by a blown bridge. On 30 Nov bridges were constructed at ST PIERRE and ANDLAU, the latter in the face of heavy fire, and both columns continued the attack to the south. At the end of the day the 02 had cleared the west edge of EBERSCHEN and the 48th had turned east thru SCHWILLER and halted on OCA order approximately one mile east of that town.

PROOF LIST

25th Tk Bn. 14th AD
 40th Tk Bn. 14th AD
 62nd Armd Inf Bn. 14th AD
 500th Armd F. Arty Bn. 14th AD
 B Trp, 94th Ren. Sqd. Mech. 14th AD
 Co. C, 125th Armd. Engr. Bn. 14th AD
 Co. C, 136th Ord. Maint. Bn. 14th AD
 Det. MP Platoon, 14th AD
 Det. 154th Signal Co. 14th AD
 A & B Btry, 398th AAA
 69th Armd F. Arty Bn. Atchd 270100 Nov 1941

CASUALTIES

Killed 7 Off. 37 EM
 Wounded 4 Off. 119 EM
 Missing 5 Off. 53 EM
 NBC 1 Off. 36 EM
 Repl Recd 0 Off 26 EM
 Axis Pris 116

ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

C.H. KARLSTAD, Col., Inf. 08109 Comdg. Off.
 JOHN G. MONTGOMERY, Maj. Inf. 0381617 Exec. Off
 HUBBERT F. BIASELLA, Maj. Inf. 0336886 S-4
 GABRIEL, LOUIS T, Jr. Maj. MC 0388162 Med O
 DANIEL R. GENTRY Capt. F.A. 01165614 S-3
 DE WITT C. ARMSTRONG, 111, Capt., Inf. 025441 S-2
 CHARLES M. PAULUS, 1st Lt., Inf. 01014668 Comm. O.
 ROBERT B. FULTON, 111, 1st Lt., Inf. 0514661 Ln. O.
 DONALD R. Mc VEIGH, 1st Lt., Inf. 01016105, Asst. S-4, claims & Real Estate O.
 WILLIAM J. HODGES, 2nd Lt., Inf. 0528403, Actg. S-1
 MADISON V. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., F.A. 0541528, Asst Comm O
 ROY L. CREWS, 1st Lt. 0556488, Chaplain
 JOHN P. STANTON, 1st Lt. 055708, Chaplain
 JOHN A. STAIR, 1st Lt., Inf, 01013869, Hq. Co. Comdr.

UNIT COMMANDERS

ERNEST C. WATSON, Maj. 0249093, 25th Tk Bn.
 JAMES H. MEYERS, Lt. Col., Inf. 62nd AIB
 E.H. FERRIS, Lt. Col. 48th Tk Bn.
 D.V. SWANSON, Lt. Col. 500th AFA
 FREDERICK. J. SCHWIND, 1st Lt. A-84
 JOHN E. MARTIN, 1st Lt. B-94
 FRANKLIN R. WALLACE, Jr. Capt. C-125
 JAMES K. TYRELL, 1st Lt. C-136

HISTORY OF COMBAT COMMAND A, 14TH ARMORED DIVISION
MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

On 1 January 1945, CCA was in XV Corps reserve vicinity SIEWILLER, FRANCE. It was on an alert status, prepared to move on three hours notice to counterattack in direction DRULINGEN-SARRE UNION or DRULINGEN-RAHLING; or to move to the vicinity of TIEFFENBACH to block the passages through the VOSGES between TIEFFENBACH AND PHALSBOURG.

On 1 January 1945, CCA received the mission of establishing and maintaining a reconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE to detect infiltration of enemy armor and take means to destroy it. It also received a mission to conduct reconnaissance for movement to east of the VOSGES by routes north of and not including SAVERNE road. Observation screen along defenses of MAGINOT LINE was established and dug-in defenses prepared in the sector by the 68 AIB (reinf.). 48th Tank Battalion (reinf.) moved to vicinity LORENZTEN, prepared to support defense plan of 68 AIB by counterattacking any enemy penetration. 501st AFA Battalion prepared to support 48th Tank Battalion or 68th AIB from firing positions vicinity BUTTEN. C-125 (-) conducted reconnaissance of routes for movement to east of VOSGES.

CCA was relieved by French 2nd Armored Division 020900 January, 1945 and moved to assembly area vicinity BOUXWILLER. Outposts were established to prevent enemy exit or infiltration from passes or woods in zone INGWILLER-DUSSENHEIM. Outposts were organized around BOUXWILLER to prevent infiltration and to provide adequate warning of attack.

2 January to 6 January was spent outposting these exits of VOSGES MOUNTAINS, in maintenance, and preparation for future operations. The 38th AIB was relieved on 6 January of mission of outposting VOSGES exits INGWILLER-WEITERSWILLER, by elements of 94th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz).

CCA moved from BOUXWILLER to SOULTZ and was attached to Task Force WAHL, 79th Infantry Division, for operations on 7 January 1945. Company A, 48th Tank Battalion was attached to 2nd Battalion 315 Infantry for operations. C-94 established an observation screen on line RITTERSHOFFEN-HOFFEN-SCHOENENBERG to detect enemy penetrations and determine enemy composition and strength. Detailed reconnaissance was made of defensive position and possible approaches for tank attack.

Co B, 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to 68th AIB on 8 January and outposted the town of SOULTZ.

In the early afternoon of 9 January the 5th Tank Battalion of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division attempted a double envelopment of the town of HATTEN with a force of fifteen Mark IV tanks on the north flank and sixteen Mark IV tanks followed by a company of mounted armored infantry on the south flank. At approximately 1420, the 1st Platoon A-48 went into position on south flank east of RITTERSHOFFEN to counter the threat of the Nazi southern envelopment. One platoon went into position on south flank west of RITTERSHOFFEN and third platoon on north flank, east of RITTERSHOFFEN. Troop C, 94th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz), from its well-disposed observation posts, furnished information directly to Company A, 48th Tank Battalion and to the assault gun platoon of E-94 attached to Troop C, causing tank and assault gun fire to be directed on the south enemy tank force with the consequent destruction of seven Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun, all but one of which burned.

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At 1600 C O 48 and C O 42nd Inf arranged a coordinated attack with one platoon of tanks and one platoon of infantry attacking to east on each side of HATTEN. The attack jumped off at 1710. The attack on north side of HATTEN met little opposition, reaching its objective by 1830. The attack on south side encountered some resistance, knocked out one tank, one personnel carrier and one staff car, reaching its objective by 1845.

On 10 January the 48th Tank Battalion attacked in conjunction with 315th Inf to the east with mission to restore the main line of resistance vicinity HATTEN, encountering heavy anti-tank, artillery and small-arms fire. At 1740 the ALR was restored and the 48th withdrew to assembly area vicinity SURBOURG. Co A, 68th AIB reinforced the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf vicinity of LEITERSWILLER.

On 11 January the 68th AIB (reinf) moved from assembly area vicinity SOULTZ, to KUHLENDORF, preparing defensive positions in this sector in preparation for enemy armor attack. At 1545, the 68th attacked to the east and southeast on RITTERSHOFFEN encountering heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. At dark it had reached a line approximately 500 yards northwest of RITTERSHOFFEN where dug-in defenses for the night were prepared.

48th Tank Battalion (reinf) held defensive positions vicinity RITTERSHOFFEN receiving heavy anti-tank fire during the period. At approximately 0630, Co C was attacked by a company of German tanks and 300 infantrymen supported by a heavy artillery concentration. The attack was repelled at 0730 with a loss of four (4) medium tanks. 48th launched an attack at 1615, and made small advances but upon reaching the outskirts of RITTERSHOFFEN was pinned down by the fire of dug-in anti-tank guns, machine guns, and automatic weapons.

Troop C, 94th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz) was given the mission of protecting the south flank of the Combat Command by patrolling the north edge of the HAGENAU Forest in the sector.

CCA launched an attack at 0800 on 12 January to clear RITTERSHOFFEN. 68 progressed slowly during the day against enemy small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and direct fire of tanks and assault guns. As darkness fell, positions were established to hold the ground gained, coordinating security with adjacent units and preparing to continue attack at daylight. 48 proceeded into RITTERSHOFFEN at 0800 meeting heavy artillery fire. After withdrawing and reorganizing it re-entered the south edge of town. Company D, 48th Tank Bn attacked east, south of HATTEN, reaching the enemy main line of resistance at 1815, withdrawing at dawn. During the day, CCA succeeded in clearing approximately one-half of RITTERSHOFFEN.

3rd Bn, 315th Inf was attached to CCA on 13 January. CCA attacked at 0800 with mission to clear RITTERSHOFFEN. 68 made slow house-to-house progress against small arms, mortar and artillery fire and knocked out two German tanks. After laying smoke screen on southeast edge of RITTERSHOFFEN, 48 attacked and progressed to church in east part of town, opposed by anti-tank, tank, mortar and machine gun fire. Seven (7) medium tanks, proceeded south of town, reaching a point midway between RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN cutting the road between these two towns by fire. 3rd Bn, 315 Inf attacked, making very little progress against heavy enemy resistance. A strong enemy attack, reinforced by armor and flame throwers, coming west from HATTEN was received at 2145. Attack was met by all fire available and was repulsed by 2400.

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Clearing of RITTERSHOFFEN was continued on 14 January. 68 attacked, employing tank-infantry teams supported by artillery, assault guns and mortars. In the ensuing house-to-house fighting, it met stubborn enemy resistance consisting of machine gun, artillery and intense mortar fire. A small patch of woods on east edge of town was cleared of enemy who had infiltrated during the night. 48 was assigned defensive overwatching and security mission, protecting right (south) flank of 3rd Bn, 315th Inf and contacting CCR on right of CCA. 48 assisted 3rd Bn, 315th Inf by tank fire and cut the road from RITTERSHOFFEN to HATTEN by tank fire. Five medium tanks from 48 were attached to 3rd Bn, 315th Inf. Negligible progress was made by 3-315 against heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. A 155MM gun, M12, supported the attack by direct fire to assist in reducing the strong point at the church. Enemy attacked with tanks and infantry at 1400 and was repulsed by 1530, two (2) enemy tanks being destroyed.

On 15 January mines were laid in the sector, and all elements attacked by fire followed by probing patrols. Aggressive attack was resumed at 1400 with little gain. The 155MM gun was again used against church strong point which was still held tenaciously by enemy.

Attack to clear RITTERSHOFFEN continued on 16 January against very stubborn enemy resistance. No ground was gained during period.

On 17 January, 315th Inf (-2nd Bn), under tactical control of CCA, with 68 AIB attached, attacked to clear RITTERSHOFFEN, with 1st Bn, 315 on left (north), 68 in center and 3rd Bn, 315th on right (south). At 0730, B-315, against intense resistance, gained small lodgement in north part of town. A-315 in conjunction with A-48 attacked at 1405 from north to clear northwest end of town and contact B-315 with whom contact had been lost. Intense enemy resistance was encountered and no contact was made with B-315. Night positions were established by all elements to hold ground gained.

All elements held ground gained on 18 January. Patrols made limited gains in vicinity of church. Four (4) enemy vehicles were knocked out northeast of RITTERSHOFFEN by artillery. Enemy was less active during this period. 48 was on alert status to destroy any enemy attempting to withdraw from RITTERSHOFFEN.

Patrols continued operating on 19 January, reaching limited objectives before being driven back to battalion positions.

At 1500 20 January the 68th AIB was relieved from attached CCA and attached to CCB. 62nd AIB was concurrently attached to CCA. 14th AD and 79th Inf Division prepared to withdraw to a defensive position vicinity HAGENAU. CCA was assigned the mission of rear guard for the withdrawal. Detachments of tanks and infantry were disposed with preponderance of weight on the right flank facing RITTERSHOFFEN and smaller detachments in the KUHLENDORF-HOHWILLER area and south of SOULTZ. Mission of detachments was to prevent the enemy from passing their areas until ordered to withdraw.

315th Inf (-) completed withdrawal from RITTERSHOFFEN area at 10400 January and moved south to vicinity HAGENAU, reverting to parent unit (79th Inf Div). 62nd AIB reinforced 48 in rear guard action. Three squads of 62 protected final withdrawal of tanks from SURBOURG area. 48 maintained blocking positions during night 20-21 January across CCA front and withdrew to successive delaying positions protecting withdrawal of the two divisions.

CCA performed its rear guard action from SCHOENENBERG-HOFFEN-HATTEN area without loss of personnel. The only equipment loss was one wrecked trailer, destroyed by 62 when abandoned. CCA closed in bivouac area 211800 January.

Period 22-31 January was spent reorganizing, in maintenance of vehicles and weapons and training of reinforcements. Units performed reconnaissance of routes of possible future operations.

The following unit citations were received during month of January:

General Orders No 9, Hq 14th Arm'd Div 1 February 1945

IV. CITATION OF UNITS.

Under the provisions of Section IV, War Department Circular Number 333, 1943, the following named organizations are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

FIRST PLATOON, COMPANY A, 48TH TANK BATTALION.

For outstanding performance of duty in action on 9 January 1945, near Rittershoffen, France. Assigned the mission of repulsing an enemy armored attack, the First Platoon, Company A, 48th Tank Battalion, consisting of four operating medium tanks, moved rapidly and decisively to the support of friendly infantry already partially overrun by enemy armor. Displaying great skill and superior marksmanship, the Platoon engaged sixteen Mark IV tanks in a deadly fire fight and, without suffering loss of men or equipment, destroyed six enemy tanks and forced the remainder to flee. Later in the day, the Platoon destroyed four disabled enemy tanks, which the German forces were attempting to evacuate. The fearless, daring, and intrepid actions displayed by the members of this platoon exemplify the high traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

TROOP C, 94TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED.

THIRD PLATOON, TROOP E, 94TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED.

For outstanding performance of duty in action on 9 January 1945, in the vicinity of Hatten and Rittershoffen, France. Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized together with the Third Platoon, Troop E, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, operating under Task Force Wahl, was assigned the mission of maintaining an observation screen to detect enemy armored penetrations through the Main Line of Resistance of the Task Force. From well

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established observation posts, Troop C and Third Platoon, Troop E supplied higher commanders with rapid, accurate information of the attack on Hatten by an estimated three armored infantry battalions of a Panzer Grenadier Division. As the overwhelming enemy attack overran two of the observation posts, their locations were displaced to effective positions, without interruption of the flow of information.

In the early afternoon of the same day a tank battalion of a Panzer Grenadier Division attempted a double envelopment of the town of Hatten, with a force of fifteen Mark IV tanks followed by a company of mounted infantry on the south flank. Troop C and Third Platoon, Troop E made prompt and detailed reports in a manner which enabled reserves to be so effectively committed as to decisively defeat and repel the enemy attack.

Information furnished directly from the observation posts caused tank and assault gun fire to be directed at the south enemy tank force with the resultant destruction of seven Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun.

The outstanding performance of the officers and men of these units under exceptionally difficult and hazardous conditions reflect great credit upon all concerned and are in the high traditions of the military service.

The following awards were made to personnel of Hq. & Hq. Co. CCA during the month of January:

General Orders No 16, Hq 79th Inf Div, 27 January 1945

II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted men:

Colonel CHARLES H. KARLSTAD, 08109, Infantry, Commanding CCA, 14th Armored Division, attached to 79th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Surbourg, France, during the period 7 January 1945 to 11 January 1945, was given the mission to prepare to counterattack to meet any armored penetration of the northern sector of the line held by the 79th Division. He planned the employment of his command and disposed his troops in a superior manner. On 9 January 1945 elements of the 25th P.C. Division, reinforced by elements of the 21st Panzer Division launched a sudden violent attack debouching in great strength from the Forêt de Hatten, over-running our front lines in the vicinity of Hatten and moving armored spear-heads towards the vital parts of our rear areas. By prompt action and a masterly handling of his command Colonel KARLSTAD quickly concentrated his armored forces in the threatened area, destroyed the advanced enemy elements and in a coordinated counterattack succeeded in confining the enemy penetration to the eastern part of the town of Hatten. But for this operation, the enemy attack would have resulted in the collapse of the entire northern sector of the 79th Division line and the destruction of a great number of troops and valuable equipment. Colonel KARLSTAD's action reflect highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States.

General Orders No 3, Hq 14th Arm'd Div, 22 January 1945

II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943 as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Division Commander to the following named individuals:

DEWITT C. ARMSTRONG, III, O25 441, Captain, Infantry, Headquarters Combat Command ***, 14th Armored Division. For meritorious service in Alsace, France, from 13 November 1944 to 30 December 1944. Entered West Point from White Plains, New York.

The following commendation was received:

HEADQUARTERS 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Assistant Division Commander

APC 79, U. S. ARMY
24 January, 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 79th Infantry Division.

1. On 6 January 1945, CCA, 14th Armored Division, was attached to the 79th Division and moved to the vicinity of Surbourg as a reserve to meet a possible armored attack against our lines. Colonel C. H. KARLSTAD, Commanding, reported to C.F. of T. F. Nahl in Soultz for instructions. Based upon the current estimate of the situation, preparations were made to meet an anticipated attack from the direction: Wissembourg - Ingolsheim - Soultz. The 48th Tank Battalion was disposed with one company near Soultz and two in reserve near Surbourg to meet such an attack.

2. As the deployment of the 21st Panzer Division developed it became evident that the German Command had abandoned an apparent earlier intention in the Ingolsheim area for the more favorable panzer country in the Aschbach Stundwiller region. Heavy attacks were launched against the front of the 3rd Bn., 313th Inf., which was then weak in TD strength. Colonel KARLSTAD immediately redispensed the 48th Tank Battalion to meet the new threat. Company "A" from Surbourg was moved to a new location near Kuhlendorf with an overwatching position on the high ground behind the Selzbach River flowing thru Hoffen

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and Leiterswiller. This new disposition enabled CCA to move all three companies immediately either to the north northeast or east to meet an armored attack with minimum delay as the road net was very favorable for this purpose.

3. a. On 9 January, 1945, the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, newly arrived in the area, launched a sudden violent attack against the sector of the 1st Bn., 242nd Infantry, east of Hatten, surrounding the town of Hatten and pushing armored detachments to the west towards our undefended rear areas. With minimum delay Colonel KARLSTAD launched his com and into action. Company "A", 48th Tank Battalion moved immediately to Rittershoffen to cover the assembly. The other two tank companies started in the same direction.

b. Upon arrival near Rittershoffen at about 1415, Company "A", 48th Tank Battalion occupied concealed firing positions with the 1st Platoon south and east of the town. One platoon was north and east, and the remaining one, south and west of Rittershoffen. Within a matter of minutes of its arrival, enemy tanks appeared on the front of the 1st Platoon. In short order five medium sized enemy tanks were destroyed and no further armored exploitation was attempted by the enemy.

c. As soon as infantry reserves could be assembled a counterattack was launched to relieve Hatten. This attack succeeded in reopening the Rittershoffen - Hatten road and relieving the 2nd Bn., 242nd Infantry and elements of the 1st Bn. who were cut off in the town.

d. With the arrival of the 14th Armored Division, CCA reverted to its parent unit.

4. Upon withdrawal from the northern sector, CCA again came under command of the 79th Division. Its mission was to cover the withdrawal of the infantry rear guards and check precipitous armored pursuit. The arrangements

to this end were made in a superior manner. However, as the enemy had apparently had enough no such pursuit developed and the withdrawal was accomplished without incident.

5. I desire, therefore, to comment to you CCA, 14th Armored Division, Colonel C. H. KARLSTAD Commanding, for a superior performance of duty. It is deserving of the words "well done" from its commander.

(s) G. D. Wahl

G. D. WAHL,
Brig. Gen., U S Army
Asst Div Comdr

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION, A.P.O. 79, U.S. Army, 24 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 14th Armored Division.

1. I concur in the above commendation and in addition, have awarded the Bronze Star Medal to Colonel KARLSTAD.

2. I desire to take this occasion to thank you for the part your division played in the recent operations around Rittershoffen and Hatten.

(s) I. T. Wyche

U. T. WYCHE
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

AG 200.6

2d Ind.

(24 Jan 45 - Commendation)

HEADQUARTERS 14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446, U. S. Army, 5 February 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Combat Command "A", 14th Armored Division.

1. I take great pleasure in transmitting this commendation to you and to the units of the Division operating under Combat Command "A" at the time.

2. In addition, I desire to add my commendation to Combat Command "A" for its operations in Rittershoffen while under my command from 12 January to 20 January.

(s) A. C. Smith

A. C. SMITH
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Award of the Purple Heart was made to the following personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CCA:

DONALD R. MCVEIGH, 01016105, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, on 16 January 1945. Entered military service from Wheeling, West Virginia. (Per General Orders Number 4, Headquarters 14th Armored Division, 24 January 1945).

JAMES J. DALEY, 31236710, Technician Fifth Grade, on 13 January 1945. Entered military service from Somerville, Massachusetts. (Per General Order Number 8, Headquarters 14th Armored Division, 30 January 1945).

THOMAS F. RYAN, 32589334, Technician Fourth Grade, on 16 January 1945. Entered military service from Morrisville, New York. (Per General Orders Number 8, Headquarters 14th Armored Division, 30 January 1945.)

ROBERT J. WORKMAN, 32367751, Private First Class, on 16 January 1945. Entered service from Wilmington, Delaware. (Per General Orders Number 2, Headquarters 24rd Station Hospital, 31 January 1945.)

RITTERSHOFFEN "COST SHEET"

	<u>48</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>C-94</u>	<u>C-125</u>	<u>Hq. & Hq Co CCA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0/25	1/10	0/2	0/2	0/1	1/40
MIA	6/39	4/130	0/5	0/12	0/6	10/192
MIA	3/11	1/14	---	---	---	4/25
TOTAL	9/75	6/154	0/7	0/14	0/7	15/257

	<u>68</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>C-125</u>	<u>C-94</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Med Tanks	--	13	--	--	13
Lt Tanks	--	6	--	--	6
HTs	--	--	--	--	0
Armd Cars M-8	--	--	--	1	1
57 ATs	--	--	--	--	0
SCR 506	--	--	--	1	1
SCR 508	--	7	--	1	8
SCR 528	--	12	--	--	12
SCR 300	--	4	--	--	4

NOTE: Losses of 68th shown above are up to the time of withdrawal. Losses during withdrawal reported to CCB.

ENEMY LOSSES

	<u>Killed or Wounded</u>	<u>Tks or SP Guns KO'd</u>	<u>AT Guns KO'd</u>	<u>MG's KO'd</u>	<u>Mortars KO'd</u>
48 Hq	45	0	0	1	0
A	120	11	1	0	0
B	70	0	1	3	0
C	220	7	0	0	0
D	0	0	0	0	0
68 Hq	65	0	0	3	0
A	175	2	1	2	0
B	55	0	0	0	0
C	250	2	1	3	0
C-94	10	2	0	0	0
Arty*	<u>500</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	1510	54	12	28	15

*Included all artillery support in RITTERSHOFFEN area.

These figures are the estimates of the units concerned. Personnel casualties particularly may be in error in either direction.

TROOP LIST

1 January 1945

Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Combat Command "A"
 48th Tank Battalion
 68th Armored Infantry Battalion
 501st Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 Company A, 84th Armored Medical Battalion
 Company B, 136th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion
 Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized
 Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion
 Battery D, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery
 Detachment Military Police Platoon, 14th Armored Division
 Detachment 154th Signal Company

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GAINS DURING PERIOD</u>	<u>LOSSES DURING PERIOD</u>
3 Jan.		501st Armored Field Artillery Battalion Company A, 84th Armored Medium Battalion Company B, 136th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion Battery D, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery Detachment Military Police Platoon
7 Jan.	500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion Battery B, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery Detachment Military Police Platoon	
8 Jan.	Battery B, 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion	
10 Jan.		Battery B, 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
13 Jan.	3rd Battalion, 315th Infantry	500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion Battery B, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery
17 Jan.	1st Battalion, 315th Infantry	
20 Jan.	62nd Armored Infantry Battalion	68th Armored Infantry Battalion 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry 3rd Battalion, 315th Infantry

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GAINS DURING PERIOD</u>	<u>LOSSES DURING PERIOD</u>
22 Jan.		Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion Detachment Military Police Platoon
23 Jan.	Detachment Military Police Platoon	Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized)
25 Jan.	Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion	
26 Jan.	Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion Battery B, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery	

Troop List as of 31 January 1945:

Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Combat Command "A"
48th Tank Battalion
62nd Armored Infantry Battalion
500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized
Company C, 125th Armored Engineers Battalion
Battery B, 398th Antiaircraft Artillery
Detachment Military Police Platoon
Detachment 154th Armored Signal Company

Roster of Key Personnel:

Combat Command Commander and Staff

C. H. KARLSTAD, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding
Thomas G. McCollom, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel, Cavalry, Executive Officer, Effective 29 January 1945
John G. Montgomery, Major, Infantry, Executive Officer 1-29 January 1945
S-3 Effective 29 January 1945
William J. Hodges, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, S-1
De Witt C. Armstrong, III, Captain, Infantry, S-2 1-29 January
Temporary Duty 94th Reconnaissance Effective 29 January 1945
Daniel R. Gentry, Major, Field Artillery, S-3 1-29 January, Acting S-2
Effective 29 January 1945
Robert B. Fulton, III, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Assistant S-3
Humbert F. Biasella, Major, Infantry, S-4
Madison V. Scott, 2d Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Communication Officer
Louis T. Gabriel, Jr., Major, Medical Corps, Surgeon
Donald R. McVeigh, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry Liason Officer
Archibald R. Schaffer, 1st Lieutenant, Cavalry, Headquarters Commandant

Ferdinand Derk, Captain, Chaplain
 Roy L. Crews, 1st Lieutenant, Chaplain
 John P. Stanton, 1st Lieutenant, Chaplain

Unit Commanders

Arthur J. Richards, Major, 62nd AIB
 Robert E. Edwards, Lieutenant Colonel, 68th AIB
 John C. Cavin, Major, 48th Tank Battalion
 Joseph J. Murtha, Major 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 Joseph H. Harrison, Lieutenant Colonel, 501st Armored Field
 Artillery Battalion
 James C. Fry, Captain, Troop C, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance
 Squadron (Mechanized)
 Franklin R. Wallace, Captain, Company C, 125th Armored
 Engineers Battalion

Casualties - January, 1945

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed	1	32
Wounded	11	273
Non-Battle Casualties	3	162
Reinforcements Received	1	272
Axis Prisoners		9
Battle & Non-Battle Casualties		
Returned to Duty	136	

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
U. S. Army

4 February 1945.

UNIT PERIODIC HISTORY
MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

The company performed its usual services for the Combat Command "A" Headquarters during its operations for the month - presented in detail in the CC "A" periodic history.

LOCATIONS (OPENING TIMES) OF COMMAND POSTS

010001.	Siewiller
011245.	Diemeringen
021400.	Bouxwiller
070400.	Soultz
071520.	Hoelschloch
111600.	Kuhlendorf
162030.	Niederbetschdorf
202015.	Surbourg
211600.	Wilwisheim

CASUALTIES

Killed.	1 (Signal Detachment)
Wounded	5 (3 evacuated)
Non-battle casualties	1 (disease)
Transfers (out)	1 (1st Lt John A. Stair)
Reinforcements Received	1
Returned to duty.	0

STRENGTH AS OF 31 JANUARY 45

Officers:

1st Lieutenants	2
2nd Lieutenants	1
	<u>3</u>

Enlisted Men 72

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

Company Commander	1st Lt. Archibald R. Schaffer
Tank Platoon Leader	1st Lt. Norman J. Murray
Maintenance Officer	2nd Lt. James S. Russell

Archibald R. Schaffer
ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFER,
1st Lt., Cav.,
Commanding.

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the **original**.

HEADQUARTERS 30 PAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, HQ 1440
United States Army

HISTORY - MARCH 1945

On 1 March 1945 CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of WILM. SWIM, FR. Co, in VI Corps Reserve. Maintenance of vehicles and weapons and special training of reinforcements was carried on in conjunction with other training and preparation for possible counter-attack missions.

On 6 March Hq CCA relieved Hq CCB in the 14th Division defensive sector vicinity RINGENBERG, FR. Co. Units then holding and outposting WLR under command CCB were attached to CCA and continued active patrolling in zone.

Propaganda program was employed through use of public address system and firing propaganda leaflets with artillery pieces. Active patrolling was conducted in zone and harassing fires were fired on reported enemy positions in defensive sector.

It was relieved of responsibility defense of WLR upon passage of elements of 38th Inf Div at approximately 0000 on 15 March 1945. The command reorganized and regrouped prepared, deploy and attack upon breakthrough by 38th Inf Div. Three columns were formed as follows: (1) 68th AIB consisting of Hq & Hq Co 68th AIB, Co B 25th Tank Bn, Co B 68th AIB, 1st Plat Trp C 94th Cav Ren Sq (Mech) and 1st Plat Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn; (2) 25th Tk Bn consisting of Hq & Hq Co 25th Tank Bn, Co C 25 Tk Bn, Co A 68th AIB, 3d Plat Trp C 94th Cav Ren Sq (Mech), and 2d Plat Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn; (3) Task Force Blue consisting of Co C 68th AIB, Co A 25th Tk Bn, 2d Plat Trp C 94th Cav Ren Sqd (Mech), and 3rd Plat Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn. CCA reserve consisted of Co I 25th Tk Bn, Trp C 94th Cav Ren Sqd (Mech) (-), and Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn (-). All elements of the command remained in assembly area prepared to attack through the 38th Inf Div.

CCA moved from assembly area via RINGENBERG 160000 Mar 45, passing through the 38th Inf Div. At end of the day 25th Tk Bn had reached GRITERSHOF and 68th AIB had reached SALMBACH. Operations were continuously impeded by blown bridges, road blocks and road craters.

The 25 Tk Bn launched an attack at 190000 March in direction of ALTENSTADT, advancing against small arms, AT, intense mortar and arty fire, entering the town at 0920, and reported town clear at 1100. At 1610 the battalion moved via WISSENBURG to SCHWELDHOFEN where the town was outposted for the night. Probing patrols were sent into the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 68th AIB launched an attack from SALMBACH in direction of LAUTER RIVER at 0700 and by 1130 reached the LAUTER RIVER. 68th was relieved by elements of 3d DIA (French) as of 1510 and began movement to SCHWELDHOFEN where probing patrols were sent into the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Task Force BLUE launched an attack on SCHLEITHAL clearing the town at 0810 and continued its attack to LAUTER RIVER, forcing a crossing at 1400. A bridgehead was established and the engineers began construction of bridge.

The 68th AIB with two platoons infantry and one platoon of tanks, followed by remaining elements of tank and infantry companies attacked 200600 March in direction KAYSWEYER which was cleared at 0625 and the attack was continued NE against the first belt of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The 25th Tk Bn supported attacking infantry by fire. The attacking troops encountered intense grazing MG fire, arty and mortar fire, forcing the infantry company back to eastern edge of KAYSWEYER. A coordinated attack at 1200, following arty, mortar and MG preparation resulted in the capture of three houses in STEINFELD.

The 94th Cav Ren Sq (Mech) (-) patrolled roads in BIENTALD maintaining contact with the enemy. At 0330 of 20 March the 2d Plat Co C, 125th Armd Engr Bn, attached to 25th Tk Bn, blew a gap in the dragons teeth approximately 150 yards N of STEINFELD.

CCR, consisting of Hq CCR, 62d AIB and Co A 48th Tk Bn, was attached to CCA and moved to assembly position vicinity KAYSWEYER.

At 010600 March the command launched an attack on STEINFELD. At 0634 this attack had taken eight houses beyond the RR tracks and at 0711 held approximately one-third of the town. The attack progressed steadily and the town, except the eastern tip, was reported clear at 0855., thus breaching the outer defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications. At 1010 the supporting tanks entered the town of STEINFELD. At 1305 an enemy counter-attack in strength of approximately 100 infantrymen, was repulsed inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, although our forces were forced to give a small amount of ground in the eastern edge of town.

During the night 21-22 March 1945, the engineers widened the gap in the SIEGFRIED LINE and constructed Treadway Bridges over dragons teeth W of STEINFELD. An enemy counter-attack at 220430 March, estimated to be company strength, was repulsed after being forced to give some ground. At 0530 an attack was launched to clear STEINFELD. The progress of the attack was held up by a road block in eastern section of town which was covered by automatic weapons fire from a pill box on NE edge of STEINFELD. The town was cleared at 1040 and at 1100 our forces began reorganization of troops and reducing pill boxes in vicinity. CCR regrouped as of 2255 with the following composition: H: CCR, 62d AIB (less one Co), 68th AIB with CCB, 25th Tk Bn attached. Seven pill boxes were destroyed during the day.

At 220155 the 25th Tk Bn moved with the mission of protecting the left flank of CCR. Progress was held up by road blocks in eastern part of STEINFELD. A Platoon of TD's (90mmSF) was attached to 25th Tk Bn at 1330. 25th Tk Bn attacked with armored elements at 1700 to reduce remaining manned pill boxes in vicinity. During the day the 25th Tk Bn destroyed 9 pill boxes, and the attached TDs destroyed an additional 5 pill boxes. Heavy artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. 25th Tk Bn regrouped as of 222555 March consisting of 25th Tk Bn (less Cos B & D), Co A 48 Tk Bn, TD Plat, and 1 5mm self-propelled gun section.

At 230450 CCR continued attack on SIEGFRIED LINE employing 68th AIB and captured COMBAT at 1100. 62d AIB and 25th Tk Bn followed the attack mop up and sealing bunkers and protecting flanks of attack. Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn prepared crossings of tank obstacles.

On 24 March 1945 CCR assembled vicinity SCHWART and FREYENFELD. Units rolled and searched pill boxes and enemy abandoned defensive positions in area. 25th Tk Bn relieved attached CCR and 48th Tk Bn attached CCR effective 280950 March.

On 31 March 1945 CCR began movement to XV Corps, crossing RHINE R, to an assembly area vicinity LIEBORG, GERMANY.

Troop List: 1 March 1945.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company Combat Command "A"
48th Tank Battalion.
68th Armored Infantry Battalion.
500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.
Battery B 398th Anti-Aircraft Artillery.
Detachment Military Police Platoon 14th Armored Division.
Detachment 154th Armored Signal Company.

Gains and Losses during Period.

Date	Gains	Losses
4 March	19th Armd Inf Bn 62nd Armd Inf Bn 25th Tank Bn Trp B 94 Cav Recon Sq (Mech) Co E 125th Armd Engr Bn	36th Armd Inf Bn 48th Tank Battalion
5 March	68th Armd Inf Bn	19th Armd Inf Bn

12

10 March

62d Armd Inf Bn.
25th Tk Bn (less Co C)
500 Armd Field Arty Bn
Btry B 398th Anti-Aircraft Arty

11 March

94th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz (-)
Hq Platoon 47th Tank Bn

15 March

25th Tank Bn (less Co C)
Trp C 94th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz)
Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn

94th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz) (-)
Co B 125th Armd Engr Bn.
Assault Gun Plat, 47th Tank Bn

19 March

94 Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)(-)

21 March

Hq Reserve Command
62d Armd Inf Bn
Co A, 14th Tank Bn

24 March

Hq Reserve Command
62nd Armd Inf Bn
94th Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)(-)
Co A 48th Tank Bn
Trp C 94th Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)
Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn
25th Tank Bn.

25 March

29 March

48th Tank Bn

30 March

Trp C 94th Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)
Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn.

Troop List: 31 March 1945.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company Combat Command "A".

48th Tank Battalion.

38th Armored Infantry Battalion.

Troop C 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz)

Company C 125th Armored Engineer Battalion.

Detachment Military Police Platoon 14th Armored Division

Detachment 154th Armored Signal Company.

Roster of Key Personnel.

Combat Command Commander and Staff.

C. H. KARLSTAD, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding.

THOMAS G. MCCOLLUM, Jr. Lt. Col, Cav, Executive

WILLIAM J. HODGES, 2d Lt, Inf, S-1

DANIEL R. CENTRY, Maj, FA, S-2

JOHN G. MONTGOMERY, Maj, Inf, S-3

ROBERT B. FULTON, III, Capt, Inf, Asst S-3 & Ln O.

HUMBERT F. DIASELLA, Maj, Inf, S-4

LOUIS T. GABRIEL, Maj, MC Surgeon

MADISON V. SCOTT, 2d Lt, FA, Comm O.

DONALD R. McVEIGH, 1st Lt, Inf, Ln O.

ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFER, 1st Lt, Cav, Hq Comdt.

FERDINAND DERK, Capt, Chaplain.

JOHN P. STANTON, Capt, Chaplain.

Unit Commanders.

JAMES H. MYERS, Lt Col, 62 AIB

BOB E. EDWARDS, Lt Col, 68 AIB

ERNEST C. WATSON, Lt Col, 25 Tk Bn.

JOHN C. CAVIN, Major, 48th Tk Bn

JOSEPH J. MURTHA, Major, 500 Armd Field Arty Bn.

GEORGE W. ENGLAND, Major, 94 Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)

JAMES C. FRY, Captain, Troop C, 94th Cav Rcn Sqd (Mecz)

FRANKLIN R. WALLACE, Captain, Company C 125 Armd Engr Bn.

Casualties.	0	EM
Killed	3	41
Wounded	5	144
Missing	0	0
Non-battle Casualties	2	217
Battle & Non-battle Casualties		
Returned to Duty	-	24
RTU		83
Reinforcements Received	4	33
Axis Prisoners - - - - -	-656	

During the month of MARCH, CCA 14th AD captured the following towns:

FRANCE

SCHNABWILLER
 OBERBETSCHDORF
 NIDDERBETSCHDORF
 RITTERSHOFFEN
 HATTEN
 NIDDERROEDERN
 REIMERSWILLER
 HOHWILLER
 KUHLENDORF
 LEITERSWILLER
 HOFFEN
 OBERROEDERN
 STUNDWILLER
 BUHL
 EBERBACH
 WINTZENBACH
 CROETTWILLER
 TRIMBACH
 ASCHBACH
 NEIDERSEEBACH
 OBERSEEBACH

SIEGEN
 OBERLAUTERBACH
 NIEDERLAUTERBACH
 SALMBACH
 SCHLEITHEAL
 FRONNACKERHOF
 GEITERSHOF
 ALTENSTADT

GERMANY

SCHWEIGHOFFEN
 STEINFELD
 SCHAIDT
 FRECKENFELD
 MINFELD
 HOFFEN
 MINDERSLACHEN
 HARTZENPULH
 RHEINZABERN
 NEUPFOTZ

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
U. S. ARMY

9 April 1945

Unit Periodic History
Month of March, 1945

The company performed its usual services for the Combat Command "A" Headquarters during its operation for the month - presented in detail in the CC"A" periodic history. Strength as of 31 March, 1945 was 3 officers and 77 enlisted men, the following personnel changes having occurred during the month:

Returned to unit-----1
Returned to duty-----1
Reinforcements received-----1

The breaching of the Moder River and Siegfried Lines involved the following changes of CP locations, the unit having started the month in Wilwisheim, France. (Opening times are given.)

042000- Ringendorf, France
180800- Surbourg
181600- Rittershoffen
182300- Oberseebach
192345- Wissembourg
221115- Schweighofen, Germany
240020- Minfeld
241315- Hatzenbuhl
241845- Freckenfeld
312400- Enroute to Rhine crossing

Archibald R. Schaffer
ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFFER,
1st Lt., Cav.,
Commanding.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #443
United States Army

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REPORT APRIL 1945

CCA was enroute from FRESSENFELD, GERMANY to vicinity DIEBURG, GERMANY (17545) on 1 April 1945, crossing the RAINE RIVER at 0300A. The command closed in area DIEBURG and GUNDERLOUSEN (17541) at 010845. The 14th Armored Division passed to control XV Corps on 1 April 1945.

On 2 April CCA began march at 0139 in one column via DIEBURG-BABENHOUSEN-CORRABACH-GR OOTHEIM-GR WALSTAD-WINTERSBACH-HEIMBUCHENTHAL-ROTHENBUCH-NEUHUTTEN with 68th Arm Inf Bn (Reinf) passing through the forward elements of the 3rd Inf Div via 250613 at 1515h. The 68th AIB attacked PARTENSTEIN at 1700 meeting small arms, bazooka, and self-propelled fire. The 48th Tank Bn (Reinf) closed in forward assembly area via NEUHUTTEN.

At 030645 April the 68th AIB continued attack on PARTENSTEIN capturing the town at 1100L. It continued the attack to the NE capturing ROBBERTSHUTTEN at 1320 encountering bazooka, anti-tank and intense small arms fire. At 1100 it continued its attack toward BRUGSINN entering REGENSRUNN with tanks and infantry at 1900B. C company (less AT Plat) plus a section of TD's was sent to assist advance of CCB operating on our right flank. This force made little progress against small arms, automatic weapons and bazooka fire.

The 48th Tank Bn moved from assembly area vicinity NEUHUTTEN at 030630 April, reaching WINTERSBACH at 1100. After being held up by a defended road block, which was by-passed at 1330, it captured LOHRHAUPTEN at 1530. The attack was continued toward MITTELHINN, attacking AURA at 1700. During the operation elements of Troop C 94th Cav Reinf Sqd (Mech) maintained contact with CCB via LOHR.

On 4 April 1945 the attack was continued to the NE. The 48th Tank Bn attacked from AURA crossing the ZINN RIVER at MITTELHINN and advancing through ROESBACH to BAD BRUCKENAU. The 68th AIB crossed the ZINN RIVER at BRUGSINN against slight opposition.

On the morning of 5 April the 48th captured BRUCKENAU and continued the attack taking the towns of ROMERSHAG and OBER RIEDENBERG. Blown bridges and slight opposition delayed the advance. The 68th AIB met interference by elements of the 45th Inf Div and were compelled to turn SW due to lack of routes.

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GRAFENDORN was cleared after encountering heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire. The attack was resumed to the N against intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. The towns of DITTLOFSRODA and VOLKERSEBACH were cleared. The 94th Cav Ron Sqd (Meoz) was attached to CCA at 050845B, and was ordered to advance in center of Combat Command zone clearing scattered resistance between 48 and 68. The towns of WEISSENBACH, MODLOS, OBR LEICHTERSBACH, BREITENBACH, SCHONDRA, MITGENFELD, SCHILDECK, and GERODA were cleared against light opposition.

On 6 April the 68 AIB continued its advance from VOLKERSELEIER via SCHONDERING-SCHONDRA-GERODA-PLATZ-LANDENLEITEN. SCHONDERING was cleared at 1320B and the advance was delayed by extremely difficult roads and by elements of the 3rd Inf Div using the same route. LANGENLEITEN was cleared at the close of the day. The 48th Tank Bn continued attack in zone capturing the towns of OBERBACH and WILDFLECKEN encountering small arms, MG and SP fire. The 94th Sqd pushed reconnaissance on SE flank of 48 capturing the towns of PLATZ, WALDFENSER, BURKARDROTH, STANGENROTH, and GEFALL. By tank fire and intense small arms was encountered from LANGENLEITEN and the squadron was forced to withdraw slightly.

On 7 April the mission of CCA was changed and the new mission was to seize and hold the line of FRANK SAALE RIVER from BAD KISSENGEN to MELLRICHTSTADT.

On 7 April, the 68th AIB advanced 23 miles capturing the towns of WALDBERG, SANDBERG, KILIANSHOF, WEISEBACH, SONDERAU, OBR ELSBACH, UNT ELSBACH, SIMONSHOF, BASTHEIM, WECHTERSWINDEL, and UNSLEBEN, seizing crossing of the SAALE RIVER at UNSLEBEN. Some resistance was encountered in SANDBERG from enemy tank fire which withdrew after being fired on by our tanks. The 48th Tank Bn advanced 14 miles capturing the towns of UNT WEISSENBRUNN, WEGFURT, SCHONAU, BRENDLORENZEN, and NEUSTADT. The advance progressed rapidly, destroying many enemy guns and vehicles. Intense enemy sniper fire (soldier and civilians) was encountered in NEUSTADT and the town was reported cleared at 2230 on 7 April. The main NEUSTADT bridge was seized and held intact.

On 8 April the 68 was ordered to contact the 106th Cav Gp with view of relieving it and to protect the left flank of XV Corps. A detachment moved to

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RENTWERTSHAUSEN to establish security and to patrol the left (North) flank of XV Corps. The towns of HEUSTREUMITTL, STREU, OBR STREU, WELLRICHSTADT, and UNSLEBEN were occupied and active patrolling was conducted in the area. The 48th Tank Bn occupied and secured the town of NEUSTADT and secured crossings of the SAALE RIVER between HOHENROTH and NEUSTREU. The bridge at HOHENROTH was reported out and the bridge at HERSCHFELD seized intact. The 94th Cav Rcn Sgd with Co D 48th Tank Bn and Co A 636th Tank Destroyer (less 2 platoons) attached were ordered to seize and secure all crossings of the SAALE RIVER between BAD KISSINGEN and STEINACH. The unit seized and secured two bridges at 740092 and 742892. The towns of WINDHEIM, BOCKLET, BURGLAUER, and NDR LAUER were cleared. The unit was ordered to assemble vicinity BURKARDROTH-STAGENROTH and established liaison with the 106th Cav Gp.

On 09 April 1945 at 1515 the 68th AIB contacted the Third Army at WELLRICHSTADT. The 68th was relieved of patrolling and securing the left (North) flank of XV Corps by the 94th Cav. Elements of CCA continued outposting its zone concurrently carrying on maintenance of arms, vehicles and personnel and preparing for future operations.

On 11 April the Combat Command moved to assembly area vicinity GLETSCHAMBERG.

At 0730 on 12 April the 68th AIB attacked with mission of seizing and securing crossings over the MAIN RIVER vicinity EBENSFELD. The attack progressed along difficult roads meeting no enemy resistance. The MAIN RIVER was reached at 1220 and all bridges over the river in the zone were found destroyed. The river was crossed through a ford E of DORINGSTADT and the final objective was reached with dismounted infantry at 1600. EBENSFELD and high ground N and E were cleared thus securing the crossings of the MAIN RIVER.

At 0830 on 12 April the 48th Tank Bn attacked with mission of seizing and securing crossings over the MAIN RIVER in vicinity of STAFFELSTEIN. At 1120 the river was reached and all bridges were found to be blown. The river was crossed by means of a ford vicinity UNNERSDORF. The town of STAFFELSTEIN was entered and cleared against slight opposition. Both columns advanced 40 miles during the day and secured crossings of the MAIN RIVER.

On 13 April Co C 125th Arm'd Engr Bn constructed a bridge over MAIN RIVER at UNNERSDORF. CCA began crossing of MAIN RIVER at 1630 and proceeded to assembly area vicinity WADENDORF-HOLLFELD. The 48th Tank Bn met no opposition

except in HOLLFELD where slight small arms resistance was encountered. The 68th AIB met determined enemy resistance along its more westerly route. Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sgd initiated reconnaissance to the BAYREUTH-NURNBERG AUTOBAHN at 2300. The 68th AIB resumed the attack on 14th April seizing and securing objective NEUHAUS-SACHSENDORF-AUFSESS, maintaining contact with 106th Cav Gp on right.

Troop C 94th Cav Ren Sgd with rifle and antitank squads from 48th Tank Bn attached, moved to reconnoiter zone of advance to include NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN. The force reached POPPENDORF and PUTTLACH, capturing an estimated 1400 P/Is and destroying many vehicles and weapons.

At 0630 on 15 April the 48th Tank Bn attacked to cut the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN, seize the towns of NEUDORF-HORLACH-WOLLENBERG and to push reconnaissance to the SE. A platoon of tanks cut the Autobahn at 0945 with the remainder of the column being delayed by difficult roads. At 1200 most of the column had reached the AUTOBAHN and the objective was taken at 1240. At 1030 a task force composed of a tank platoon, a TD platoon and two platoons of infantry was given the mission of attacking POTTENSTEIN from the E and reduce resistance there. The task force was held up in the vicinity of WAINBERG by a road block defended by approximately 50 enemy and AT guns.

The 68th AIB attacked at 0630 with mission of cutting NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN and seizing towns of RIEGELSTEIN-EICHENSTRUTH-WALLSDORF and to push reconnaissance to SE. The advance was delayed by heavy traffic on roads in area by adjacent units on right. An attack was launched with dismounted infantry supported by tanks with the mission of clearing the town of GUSSWENSTEIN. The unit advanced to and cleared BETZENSTEIN, assembling there for the night.

At 0630 on 16 April the 68th AIB dispatched a detachment to assist the 48th Tank Bn in clearing POTTENSTEIN. undefended road blocks were encountered and the town was reported clear at 0900. The main body of the 68th continued the attack to the southeast from BETZENSTEIN, advancing via the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH AUTOBAHN. The attack was temporarily held up by small arms and mortar fire in the vicinity of FLECH at 0900. Bypassing the resistance at FLECH the advance was continued, clearing RIEGELSTEIN at 1105, encountering only occasional sniper fire. The towns of EICHEN, STRUTHGERBERG, HEINBERG, ILLAFELD, and BERNHOF were

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reported clear at 1345. The 68th AIB was given the mission of contacting elements of the 45th Inf Div in vicinity of SCHAITTACH and to protect the left flank of the 45th Inf Div N of the PEGNITZ RIVER. The contact was established at 1630. The following towns were cleared: SPIES, FLECH, HORMERSDORF, REINGRUB, MENSCHOF, WALLSDORF, RAITENBERG, KREPPLING, STEINENSITTENBACH, TREUP, SCHLOSSBERG, KERUBUHL, and BONDORT. A hospital was captured at RUPPECHSTEGEN containing a staff of 20 and 165 patients.

At 0700 on 17 April a tank lead enemy counterattack was launched on BENTZENSTEIN, the location of HQ CCA, and the CCA Reserve consisting of Co D 48th Tank Bn (-), Co A 636th Tank Destroyer Bn (-), Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn (-), and Hq Co CCA. The attack was repulsed at 1000.

At 1230 the 68th began movement to seize POLLING and vicinity. The battalion reached the town of RASCH at the end of the day. Large quantities of medical supplies were captured in ALTENSITTENBACH. Contact was made with the 106th Cav Gp. The 94th Cav Ron Sqdn was attached to CCA and given the mission of protecting the left flank of CCA and the 14th Armd Div.

On 18 April the 68th continued the attack reaching and securing the town of POLLING against slight opposition. The 48th Tank Bn continued its attack toward NEUMARKT, advancing to RICHTHEIM, encountering considerable small arms and SP fire.

On 19 April the 68th moved its reconnaissance elements from POLLING on NEUMARKT to determine if the town was defended. The town was reported to be defended and an attack was launched on the town at 0930. Advancing slowly from the west, elements entered STAINA, encountering heavy antitank fire from the western edge of NEUMARKT. Attacking SE on the town one company encountered heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire from western edge of town. One platoon Co C entered NEUMARKT at 1300 and at 1725 established contact with dismounted elements of 48th Tank Bn entering the town from the N. At the close of the day the 68 held 10 houses in the western edge of NEUMARKT. The 48th Tank Bn attacked NEUMARKT from the N against heavy mortar and At fire. Dismounted troops entered the town at 1600 against very stiff resistance. Contact was made with the 68th in the factory in NEUMARKT. The 94th Cav Ron Sqdn continued the mission of reconnoitering the left flank of CCA, encountering small arms, intermittent artillery and tank fire. The town of KADENZHOFF was captured at 1130.

On 20 April all elements were withdrawn from POSTBAUER for the purpose of directing air missions on the town. Four missions were flown on the town from 0800 to 1400. The 48th Tank Bn moved from assembly position vicinity of RIDHEIM to seize crossing over the DONAU RIVER, advancing to the vicinity of POSTBAUER where it was held up by small arms and AT fire. An attack was launched on POSTBAUER at 1915 and at 2020 the battalion had dismounted troops in the NW corner of town. The 68th AIB remained in assembly position vicinity POLLING on an alert status. A detachment was sent to clear the towns of HENG and KOSTLBACH, which were reported clear at 202300 and 230015 respectively.

On the 21 of April the 68th continued the attack and cleared KERNATH at 1230 encountering determined enemy resistance consisting of intense small arms, AT and scattered artillery fire. The 48th Tank Bn continued the attack on POSTBAUER on 21 April after an artillery preparation. The battalion was forced to withdraw at 0825 upon receipt of intense bazooka and sniper fire. At 1012 an artillery preparation was repeated and the troops again attacked the town. The town was reported cleared at 1600 against sniper and AT fire. The command was reorganized and the attack continued encountering flat trajectory and intense small arms fire. The enemy force comprised elements of the 17th SS Grenadier Division.

The 68th AIB continued the attack on 22 April capturing the towns of RITTERSHOF and TYROLSBERG, encountering enemy small arms and artillery fire. The 48th continued the attack in W sector of CCA zone with dismounted infantry and tanks which received intense small arms and artillery fire S of HENG and were forced to withdraw into town of HENG. At 1300 a tank infantry attack was launched but was unable to advance due to enemy heavy artillery, high velocity AT and small arms fire. At the close of the day the Combat Command, less 48th as constituted, was enroute to assembly area vicinity ECKERSMUELEN. The 25th Tank Bn as constituted was attached to CCA. Road conditions were unusually severe for this operation, all vehicles requiring tow.

CCA was given the mission of protecting the division rear area and supply routes. The command followed the Reserve Command, moving from assembly area to assembly area close behind CCA.

CCA moved on 28 April with the mission of seizing crossings over the ISAR

RIVER. The 68th advanced to WAINBURG encountering small arms, bazooka and mortar fire en route. The 47th Tank Bn now attached to CCA, proceeded on route to initial objective of KIRCHDORF then on to HORGERTSHAUSEN. The 68th continued the attack on 29 April to seize crossings over ISAR RIVER at LANDSHUT. The advance reached PFEFTRACH against scattered groups of infantry. At 1540 an attack on ALTDOERF was made encountering heavy small arms and some AT fire. The town was captured at 1750. The attack was continued on LANDSHUT where the troops were forced to withdraw from the outskirts of LANDSHUT due to MG and flat trajectory fire. The 68th passed to control of CCR at 2230.

The 47th Tank Bn attack was delayed for three hours by a truce, awaiting an enemy reply to unconditional surrender terms given them in response to their proposal for certain neutral zone in the vicinity of MOOSBURG. Inasmuch as no further communication was received, the attack was launched at 0900 in two columns, encountering moderate resistance, which was overrun. The town of MOOSBURG was entered at 1125. An allied PW camp was liberated containing 38,000 British, American, Russian, and French prisoners of war. Among the allied prisoners were twenty eight Russian general officers. Another Allied prison camp was liberated in ERGOLDING, releasing three thousand Allied prisoners of war. Approximately 4000 enemy were captured during the day. The 62nd Aib was moved into MOOSBURG, passing to control of CCA.

On 30 April the infantry elements of both battalions (47 and 62nd, - the latter now attached to CCA) established bridgeheads across the ISAR RIVER in vicinity of MOOSBURG, encountering small arms, SP and occasional mortar and artillery fire. Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn assisted the 906th Treadway Bridge Company in building bridge over ISAR RIVER in vicinity of MOOSBURG.

Troop List: - 1 April 1945.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company Combat Command "A"
 43th Tank Battalion
 68th Armored Infantry Battalion
 Troop C 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized
 Detachment 154th Armored Signal Company
 Detachment Military Police Platoon

Gains and Losses During Period:

Date	Gains	Losses
2 Apr	500th Armored Field Arty. Bn.	

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poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

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	Btry B 398 Anti Aircraft arty Company A 636 Tank Destroyer Bn	
5	94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz)	
10		94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) (less Troop C)
16	Troop B 94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz)	
17	94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) (less troop B-C)	
20	975 FA Bn	94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) (less troop D)
23	25 Tank Bn (less A Co) 7th Army Prov Rifle Co #4	46 Tank Bn (less Co A) Co A 68 AIB Troop D 94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) Company C 125 Armd Engr Bn 500th Armd FA Bn Btry B 398 Anti Aircraft Arty Companies P & C 25th Tank Bn
24		
25	Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn	
27	47th Tank Bn 500 Armd FA Bn Btry B 398th Anti Aircraft Arty Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn Troop D 94th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz)	25th Tank Bn (-) 7th Army Prov Rifle Co #4
28	94th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) (less troop D)	
30	62nd AIB (less Co A) Co A 25 Tank Bn	66th AIB (less Co B) Co B 47th Tank Bn

Troop List: - 30 April 1945.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company Combat Command "A"
62nd Armored Infantry Battalion (less Company A)
500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Company B 63th Armored Infantry Battalion
Company A 25th Tank Battalion
Company C 125th Armored Engineer Battalion
Troop D 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized)
Battery B 398th Anti Aircraft Artillery
Detachment 154th Armored Signal Company
Detachment Military Police Platoon 14th Armored Division

Roster of Key Personnel:

Combat Command Commander and Staff:
C. H. KARLSTAD, Brigadier General, U. S. Army, Commanding
THOMAS G. MC CORMACK, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel, Cavalry, Executive
WILLIAM M. HODGINS, 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, ADC and S-1
DANIEL R. TATRY, Major, S-2 (Field Artillery)
JOHN C. MONTGOMERY, Major, S-3 (Infantry)
ROBERT D. BOLTON, III, Captain, Assistant S-3 (Infantry)
ROBERT F. BRASSELLA, Major, Infantry, S-4
MADISON W. SCOTT, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Communication Officer
DONALD R. Mc NEIGH, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Liaison Officer
JAMES A. McFAUL, 2nd Lieutenant, ADC
ARCEBALD R. SCHAFER, Captain, Cavalry, Headquarters Comdt.
FERDINAND DERY, Captain, Chaplain
JOHN P. STANTON, Captain, Chaplain

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Unit Commanders:

ARTHUR J. RICHARDS, Major, 62nd AIB
 BOB E. EDWARDS, Lieutenant Colonel, 30th AIB
 ERNEST C. WATSON, Lieutenant Colonel, 25th Tank Battalion
 JOHN C. CAVIN, Major, 40th Tank Battalion
 JOSEPH J. MORTHA, Major, 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 GEORGE W. ENGLAND, Major, 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz)
 JAMES C. FRY, Captain, Troop C 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz)
 FRANKLIN R. WALLACE, Captain, Company C 125th Armored Engineer Battalion
 FRANCIS V. HEDRON, Captain, Troop D 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
 (Mecz)

Casualties:

	Officers	EM
Killed	4	26
Wounded	8	119
Missing	0	0
Non Battle Casualties	7	88
Battle and Non Battle Casualties Returned to duty	-	35
Returned to Unit	-	15
Reinforcements Received	4	301
Axis Prisoners		10,002

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
U. S. ARMY

11 May 1945

Unit Periodic History
Month of March, 1945

April

The company performed its usual services for the Combat Command "A" Headquarters during its operations for the month - presented in detail in the CCA periodic history. An enemy attack of 3 tanks and estimated 100 infantry on our CP in Betzenstein was repulsed without loss to this company, 17 April.

The successive crossings of the Rhine, Main, Altmuhl, and Danube Rivers involved the following changes of CP locations (opening times are given).

010630 - Dieberg
022030 - Wiesthal
031445 - Frammersbach
042100 - Wernarz
051500 - Bruckenuau
070800 - Oberbach
072015 - Brendlorenzen
111900 - Gleichamberg
121800 - Doringstadt
132030 - Hollfeld
151730 - Bronn
161430 - Betzenstein
172100 - Altdorf
182000 - Unter Olsbach
191430 - Berg
211200 - Dillberg
222300 - Berg
232200 - Eckersmuhlen
242200 - Gross-Hobing
251500 - Altdorf
262400 - Demling
270830 - Thiessing
282330 - Puttenhausen
291200 - Gammelsdorf
300900 - Mauern
301500 - Moosburg

Strength as of 30 April, 1945 was 2 officers and 76 enlisted men, the following personnel changes having occurred during the month:

Transfers out.....2
Returned to unit.....1

Archibald R. Schaffer, Capt., Cav. was promoted to present grade per Par 1, SO 106, Ho Seventh Army dated 16 April. Norman J. Murray, 1st Lt., Cav., Tn Plat Ldr and Ex O, was dropped from assignment 23 April (HBC).

Archibald R. Schaffer
ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFER,
Capt., Cav.,
Commanding.

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